



Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024

Message from Mrs Tovell, Head of School

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful half term break. Our second half of Spring Term may be a short one, but is still full of wonderful learning, experiences and opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who made the time for a parents' evening consultation this week. It's been lovely hearing about the efforts and progress being made by the children.

Next week, we will be celebrating Mother's Day with our special Mother's Day Assemblies. Reception and KS1 on Wednesday 6th March and KS2 on Friday 8th March both at 2:45pm.

Polite reminder

Could we ask that children and siblings are kept off the play equipment at school pick up times.

Also, scooters and bikes should not be used until outside of the school gate.

Thank you for your cooperation

Lost Property

We had over 20 jumpers in the lost property box and only 3 were named. We cannot stress enough how important it is to name the children's clothes. Every child comes to school wearing the same so initials or a name are essential in jumpers/cardigans so items can be returned!

With the warmer months approaching children are likely to take these item off even more.

'Our Maths Curriculum'

Through our partnership between Little Plumstead C of E Primary Academy and Acle St Edmund C of E Primary Academy, we have been working collaboratively to develop and improve our maths curriculum. As part of this, we have recently changed the structure of our lessons with an eye to strengthen fluency and embed arithmetic strategies. We have done this in the form of a three-part lesson, which provides opportunities for fluency and arithmetic skills to be used in every maths lesson in addition to the core lesson focus.

All maths lessons will start with a fluency activity: in Reception and Key Stage 1, this will take the form of our Mastering Number programme, designed to develop number sense using manipulatives and build a strong foundation of mathematical understanding. From Years 2 through to Year 6, there will be a 5-minute starter focussing on times tables. These are relatively fast-paced activities focusing on quick recall and include things such as counting sticks, which children have taken to quickly and with great excitement.

From years 3 to 6, this is followed by the arithmetic portion of the lesson that will focus on building fluency when looking at addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimal, percentage and fraction questions. In the current phase of our three-part lesson this is focusing on 'filling gaps'. This involves looking at areas that children are not as secure in and need a little extra boost in. The arithmetic focus will remain the same for a whole week and then change for the next week. By doing this, we are able to carefully model and explain to children how to approach certain questions, giving them opportunities to build confidence while practicing them and then allowing independent time for children to independently use the skills they have learnt.

We have really seen a shift in how children are feeling when coming into a maths lesson, with an excitement and confidence that they can! The progress that children have already shown since the introduction of this structure only serves to enhance the idea of what maths will look like at our schools in the future.



Alastair Smyth, Chair of Local Governance Committee

Following the recent amalgamation of governance at Little Plumstead with Acle, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to the Little Plumstead part of our school community.

My family and I live in Acle, and my 2 eldest children attend the Acle St Edmund Primary Academy. Before moving to Acle, we lived in Little Plumstead, and have fond memories of our time in the village.

Prior to Acle joining St Benet's Trust last September, I had been the Chair of Governors at Acle, for the previous 3 school years, having been elected as a Parent Governor in 2019.

During my time at Acle a key focus has been on developing and living the School Vision 'From a tiny seed ... all things are possible' throughout all that we do. I am immensely proud of the positive recognition of this work that we received in our 2023 SIAMS Inspection.

I believe this approach will provide the foundation to ensuring the 2 schools operate as effectively together as possible, maintaining a critical focus on doing the best by all children, and adults, involved with each school.

We will shortly be recruiting for a Parent Governor role from each School to join the Local Governance Committee to help us deliver on that aim and ensure we fulfil our responsibilities to our community. More details will be sent by letter next week and I will be very happy to have an informal chat with anyone who wants to find out more.

Governance within academy trusts works differently to maintained schools, with responsibilities set out by the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. This is available on the St Benet's website » [Trust Structure & Governance \(stbenets.org\)](https://stbenets.org)

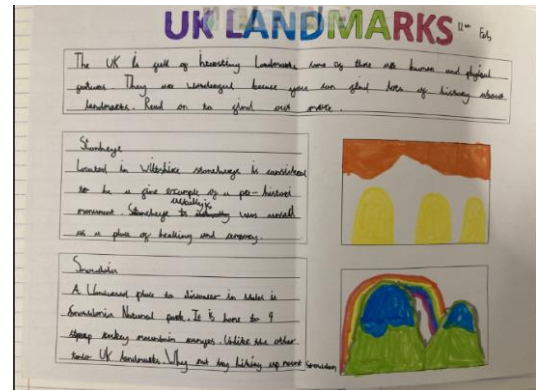
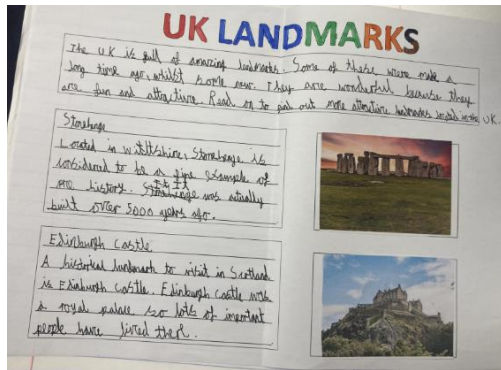
Professionally, I have worked and consulted on change management for large and small businesses across the private and not-for-profit sectors for a number of years.

I can be contacted via the School Office, in line with our Communication Policy.

Year 3

In Parks Class this term we have been busy completing lots of different learning in our lessons.

In English, we have written a non-chronological report about UK landmarks such as Stonehenge and Edinburgh Castle. We have enjoyed finding out about lots of interesting places around the UK to inform our writing. We have practised writing in paragraphs using our geography learning about Norwich and Norfolk.




In maths, we have started our new topic on fractions. This week we have focused on understanding that a shape or number must be split into equal parts. We have also been learning our 6 times tables.

In our DT lessons, we have learnt all about mechanism and levers. We have made see saws, catapults and designed and built our own moving linkage toys using split pins.



We have learnt all about the different periods of the Stone Age in history. We have explored the different changes that happened and how some Neolithic settlements such as Skara Brae are still in existence today.


In our science lessons, we have learnt all about different types of forces. We have investigated friction and magnetism. We really enjoyed investigating which materials were magnetic and finding out how magnets can repel and attract. Our next science topic will focus on plants!



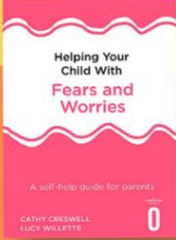

Anxiety:

Helping Your Child With Fears & Worries

Coffee Morning & Drop-in



With:



Date: 15th of April 2024 **Time:** 8.30_{am} - 10_{am}

Don't forget the school disco is on Monday 4 March 2024!

The KS1 disco will run 4:30-5:30pm and
The KS2 disco will run 5:45-7pm.

The cost is £2 per child and we can only accept payment by **cash** on the night - exact change is really appreciated.

If an adult other than the child's parent/carer is collecting the child(ren) from the disco, please notify the school office by emailing them at:

office@littleplumstead.norfolk.sch.uk **before** Monday.

No child will be allowed to go home with anyone other than their parent/carer if these arrangements have not been notified to us in advance. KS2 children **will not** be allowed to walk home on their own.

Please read the disco information sheet issued via Parentmail earlier this week for all the disco arrangements.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL PLAY OUR LOTTERY



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- The easy way to help us raise funds
- Local cash prizes every week



BUY TICKETS:

Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
And search for: Little Plumstead



GambleAware 16+

Easter Activities



INTENSIVE SWIMMING COURSES

Suitable for 4 years+

max 4 swimmers per class

30mins each day

COLNEIS POOL FELIXSTOWE

4 Day Course
2nd - 5th April
£39.80

OAKLANDS LEISURE POOL FLIXTON RD

3 Day Course
8th - 10th April
£29.85

REDLINGFIELD

3 Day Course
10th - 12th April
£29.85

HARLESTON

4 Day Course
8th - 11th April
£39.80

YOXFORD

4 Day Course
8th - 11th April
£39.80

BEACON HILL POOL MARTLESHAM

5 Day Course
8th - 12th April
£49.75

ACTIVITY SESSIONS

1 hour - Harleston Pool only

Boogie Board &
Fin swimming

Diving

Junior
Lifeguarding

PRIVATE TUITION

1:1 and 2:1 suitable for adults
and children available at all pools

**BOOK
NOW**



Email: treacle@waterlilieswim.co.uk

| EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES | | |
|---|--|--|
| DATE | TIME (where applicable) | EVENT/ACTIVITY |
| 4 th March | KS1 4:30pm – 5:30pm KS2 5:45pm – 7:00pm | School Discos |
| 6 th March | 2:45pm | Mother's Day Assembly KS1 |
| 7 th March | | World Book Day |
| 8 th March | 2:45pm | Mother's Day Assembly KS2 |
| 12 th March | 3:30pm | Y4 Parents Meeting re Residential |
| 13 th March | 3:30pm | Musical Theatre Assembly (Parents) |
| 14 th March | 9am | Y5 Science bus from Thorpe St Andrew High School |
| 26 th March | | Easter Church Service (Pupils only) |
| 28 th March – 12 th April | EASTER HOLIDAYS | |
| 15 th April | | School starts |
| 15 th April | 8:30am – 10am | Coffee morning and Drop in : Anxiety |
| 18 th April | | YR&Y1 Sports Hall Multi-Skills |
| 1 st – 3 rd May | | Y4 Residential |
| 6 th May | | Bank Holiday (School Closed) |
| 13 th – 16 th May | | KS2 SATS |
| 20 th May | 9am | Class Photographs |
| 22 nd May | | Church Service (Pupils only) |
| 27 th - 31 st May | SUMMER HALF TERM | |
| 3 rd June | | School starts |
| 10 th – 14 th June | | Y6 Residential |
| 28 th June | | Musical Theatre Show (pupils only) |
| 29 th June | | PlumFest |
| 1 st July | KS1 4:30pm – 5:30pm KS2 5:45pm – 7:00pm | School Discos |
| 3 rd July | TBC | Sports Day |
| 10 th July | | Y4 School trip to Norwich Castle |
| 17 th July | 9:30am | Leavers Service in Church |
| 19 th July | TBC | Leavers Assembly |