

Hemsby Primary Herald

December 2019

School Leadership

You will have heard by now that the governors have appointed Mrs Sian Harmer as the new headteacher at Hemsby Primary School. This is an excellent appointment and I look forward to working with Mrs Harmer up until she takes up her post after the February half term holiday, so that there is a smooth transition in leadership.

Mrs Winter is returning to Hemsby Primary School after Christmas following her one term secondment to the Local Authority Looked After Children Service. She will resume her role as deputy headteacher, but to ensure that there is sufficient leadership capacity to support me during the interim period before a new headteacher takes up their position, Mrs Beales will become the Interim Assistant Headteacher next term.

Other Staffing Changes

Many of you will have noticed changes to staffing in our school office. Mrs Harris is now responsible for school finance as well as her other duties as school secretary. To support her, we have welcomed Mrs Battley as part-time clerical assistant to the school. Mrs Battley has significant experience in an educational setting and is going to be the face of the school at reception during the mornings.

There are going to be some slight changes to the teachers in three of our Classes and I have detailed these below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Owls	Mrs Beales	Mrs Ritchie	Mrs Ritchie	Mrs Ritchie	Mrs Ritchie
Jays	Mrs Gates	Mrs Gates	Mrs Gates	Mrs Beales	Mrs Beales
Woodpeckers	Mrs Antoniou	Mrs Winter	Mrs Winter	Mrs Antoniou	Mrs Antoniou

These changes will provide the best continuity for the children in these classes while allowing Mrs Winter and Mrs Beales to support me in the leadership school until Mrs Harmer takes up her post.

Finally could I thank all of the staff at the school, especially Mrs Beales, who have supported me this term.

I look forward to returning to Hemsby (for a short while at least!) after the holiday and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas.

Martin White

Interim Headteacher

Attendance and Absence

The whole school attendance from 5th September to 17th December
2019 94.47%

I would like to remind parents of the procedures that they should follow if their child is unwell and unable to attend school. If your child is not able to attend, parents should ring the school before 9.30 in the morning. For us to be able to authorise the absence, we are required to enquire about the specific reasons for the absence, which is a requirement placed upon us. For safeguarding reasons, we will ring the parents of absent children where we have had no notification. Could you please make this call on every day of the absence.

All schools are required to monitor attendance closely and are held to account if attendance is lower than in most other schools. Therefore, we analyse the attendance of the children on a regular basis and contact parents if attendance is close to 90%. This is the figure deemed by the DfE as the point for schools to intervene, and children whose attendance is less than 90% are deemed 'persistent absentees'. For your information, the average attendance rate at this school is currently below the National average and, although improving has been below it for the last three years.

We do want to encourage attendance, because it creates good work habits for the adults of the future, as well as making sure children have maximum learning opportunities. However, it is parents that choose whether their child comes to school, we only have to make the decision on whether we authorise that absence or not. If your child is not well at school, we will contact you.

Mobile phones

Please can we remind all children who bring in mobile phones that they need to hand them into the School office at the start of the day and collect them at the end of the School day.

Dates For The Diary

Monday 6th January - 8:50am School reopens
Wednesday 15th January - Reception children Health/Weight/Vision
Friday 14th February - 3:20pm School classes for half term
Monday 24th February - 8:50am School reopens
Wednesday 1st April - 3:20pm School closes
Monday 20th April - 8:50am School re-opens
Friday 8th May - School closed for Mayday
Friday 22nd May - 3:20pm School closes
Monday 1st June - 8:50am School reopens
Thursday 16th July - Sports Day (Times to follow)
Tuesday 21st July - 3:30pm School closes for Summer holidays

Sports News

This October was a busy month with three competitions in the cluster, two football tournaments and a Hi 5 netball tournament. Both the football tournaments were held at Hemsby Primary School, one was for boys in Year 3/4 and one was for boys in Year 5/6. Both teams played extremely well and won two of their matches, earning 6 points in total. This now leaves us sharing top spot in respect of both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 ready for the girls and mixed tournaments next year. There were goals from the following children;

Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Noah 2	Reece 3
Riley 3	Jack 4
Lucas 2	Dexter 1
	Theo 3

The Year 5/6 netball tournament was kindly hosted by Flegg High Ormiston Academy. The team played well, even though it was affected by injury and illness, and finished second overall with two wins and a draw. Brooke and Dexter scored 2 goals each, well done!

Then in the middle of November, I took a team of fifteen children from Year 3 to Year 6 to compete at a cross country competition at Bure Park. The weather was kind to us for it was not wet and cold as in previous years. All the children were well behaved and ran a good race with four children from Year 5 and 6 managing to come in the top 10 (Luca, Noah, Codie and Faye). These children have now qualified to run at the Norfolk Games in March. An excellent effort one more than last year!

That same week both the Year 5/6 girls and boys football team competed in the first round of the cup. The boys played Ormesby Junior school and won 4-2 with a hat trick from Reece and a goal from Noah. However, the girls took a heavy defeat from Martham, but none gave up and they all battled from start to finish, especially Grace who was brilliant in defence. I must also mention Flo for playing in goal for the first time, thank you!

At the beginning of December, nine children from Year 2 then went to a multi skills evening at Flegg High Ormiston Academy. There they practised several skills from throwing, bowling and dribbling. All the children enjoyed themselves and participated with great enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support this year.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Annison

Around the classes

Robins



It has been a busy half term in the Robins. Our talk for writing text was Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We learnt how to make porridge. In maths we used the bears to compare sizes. Then we sorted the bears in different ways. We sang 'Ten in the bed' taking away one each time. We planned Baby Bear's birthday party: writing invitations, making cards, printing wrapping paper and making party food.

As part of our celebrations topic we looked at how Hindu's celebrate Diwali by making diya pots with clay and painting Rangoli patterns.

We made Christingles for the church service, working hard to learn the first verse for Away in a Manger. We have been busy learning the Christmas story ready for our Nativity performance in the church on Tuesday 17th December to which you are all warmly invited.



Thank you for your support with our story cafes, decoration day activities and for taking the time to share your child's reading book and sound books. We will be learning new sounds after Christmas.

Our next topic will be 'Weather.' The date for the next story café will be Wednesday 29th January 2020 at 9am.

Mrs Sexton and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Owls



It's been another busy half term in Year 1. In English the Owls learnt the story of the Gunpowder plot, wrote Remembrance day poems and learnt the story of 'Tiddler, the storytelling fish' before making up some more excuses for him as to why he was late for school. We are continuing to work hard in our phonics lessons, learning different ways of spelling the same sounds.

In Maths the children are becoming more confident with their 2d and 3d shapes; they are continuing to practise their number facts and have been using symbols to write their number sentences.

'We're Alive' has been our topic all term and this half term we have concentrated on animals: learning about how they can be grouped in different ways, how their bodies are different, food chains and carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

In the last few weeks, we have focused on all things Christmas. The children have worked very hard learning the songs for our Christmas play and have enjoyed making Christmas decorations, both in the classroom and outside during our Bushcraft sessions. Thank you very much if you have been able to attend any of our events this term in the Owls.

Next term our new topic is called 'Faces and Places', in which we'll be finding out about famous people, such as Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and learning about castles, including making a model castle ourselves. We will continue with our Bushcraft sessions on Wednesdays, so please remember to dress warmly and wear wellies.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jays



What a busy half term it has been for the Jays! In recent English lessons the children have learnt the traditional Christmas story 'The Night Before Christmas', and have even been taking part in 'hot seating' sessions, where they have answered questions as if they were in the story. A big focus this half term has been on handwriting and we have seen significant improvements from everyone.

In Maths the children have continued to develop their understanding of number, addition and subtraction and have begun to learn mental calculation strategies to help their working out. We will shortly be beginning to learn our times tables too - watch out for the times table challenge.

In our topic 'We're Alive' we have been learning about animals, how they can be grouped in different ways, how they have different body parts from us to help them cope with their environment and also learnt more about food chains and what carnivores, herbivores and omnivores are.

As you can imagine the last few weeks have been focused on all things Christmas. The children have done an amazing job learning the lines and songs for our school play and it was wonderful to see so many parents joining us for decoration day.

In the New year we will begin a new topic called 'Faces and Places', where we'll be learning out about famous, people including Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We will also learn more about castles, how and why they were built the way they were and the types of defences that were used.

Bushcraft sessions will continue on Wednesdays, so please continue to send the children into school in warm clothes with wellies.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break and a happy and healthy
2020.

Kingfishers



In Kingfishers we have been very busy learning and using the formal method for both subtraction and addition.

In English we have written our own myths based loosely on Romulus and Remus, as well as an information text on the Roman Army.

We had a very enjoyable visit to the Time and Tide museum. Our group behaved impeccably, and it was a pleasure to take them. It was great to read what the pupils enjoyed on their postcards of the visit, which they completed for their homework. The Kingfishers all remembered so many great parts of the trip.



In DT we have been exploring wheels and axis and learning about ancient Roman chariots! Moving away from our Romans topic, in Science we have been learning about forces and magnets, and have enjoyed lots of practical activities.

I would like to thank all the parents and family members who came in and joined us for our 'Decoration Day'.

Thank you Kingfishers for a brilliant term together. Have a wonderful Christmas.



Woodpeckers



In the second half of this Autumn term Woodpeckers have been very busy. In Maths they have been boosting their knowledge of the 6, 7, 8 and 9 times table. In English the theme of studying myths has continued with the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, which has finished with Woodpeckers writing their own version of this mythical Greek tale. Our subject of the Romans has continued with the study of home and school life and in Art this has been reflected by using clay to make Roman tiles and pots. Woodpeckers have even put together dance moves in PE based on the Roman army!

Together with Kingfishers we had a really enjoyable day out at the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth. The Museum put on a fantastic variety of interactive workshops, which showed the children what life was like in Roman Britain.



Since then Woodpeckers have been preparing for the end of term by taking part in the Christmas show, Hoodwinked.

We were so pleased to see so many parents, grandparents and carers who came to the Christmas decoration morning. With their help Woodpeckers have made some beautiful Christmas cards and personalised snow globes ready to take home at the end of term.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2020!

Ms A Antoniou
Mrs Cooper

Swallows



The Swallows have had a great term and have worked really hard. We enjoyed learning all about the lives of the Victorians, and had a fabulous day at Gressenhall farm and workhouse where the children solved a 'whodunnit'.

In English we have been learning to write in the style of journalists to produce some excellent newspaper reports.

In Science we have learnt about Forces and begun to find out about fair testing in our investigations.

We loved having parents and carers come into work with us during our 'Decorations Morning'.

The children have been working exceptionally hard on preparing for our Christmas performances of "Hoodwinked", and have loved performing for friends and family.

It has been a very busy and exciting term and we are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break.

Hérons

What a busy half term the Herons have had!

Hérons have been learning how to develop their writing by showing not telling and using dialogue to move their action on.



In Maths they have been learning about properties of shape and improving their ability in the four calculations; working on speed as well as accuracy.

In Topic, our Industrial Revolution theme has come to an end. The children enjoyed a day at Gressenhall where they learnt about life for children in the Victorian Times. The Herons have used their literacy skills to write adverts for the opening of the London underground and diaries to show what life was like for children chimney sweeps.

To finish off a brilliant half term, the Herons have been involved in the Hoodwinked production. They were an absolute credit to us all, leading the way in the acting and singing and stage production. Thank you to all of the children for their hard work.

Have a lovely Christmas. Rest and relax and come back ready to work hard in the New Year!