



## Academy News

April 2023

Another month has come and gone, and the Summer Term is here already. The start of spring is showing, and we are hoping for some improved weather, and less rain.

The children have come back after Easter, eager to press on with their learning, and their attitudes towards this work have been impressive. The Friday celebration assembly demonstrates the perseverance and efforts they are making in all areas of the curriculum, including forest school, swimming, maths and science.

What areas of learning do you think should be included in addition to the ones we already offer? It may be possible for us to enhance our curriculum with special interests, that perhaps are rarely covered.

### Possible extension of the school day

There has been some discussion in the government about extending the school day, to ensure children are with us for 34.5 hours a week, from September 2023. At present we are 25 minutes short of this. If the changes are to be made for September then we would need to start the day 5 minutes earlier, at 8:45am. While this is not a huge change, we will need pupils to be arriving for register at this time, and not later. This will have to be approved by the local governors and the trust. More information will come to you later in the year.

### Have your say...

We often talk to the children about their learning and now it is your turn. We will be sending home some questionnaires which gives you the opportunity to give us feedback—with some familiar questions but also some that are specific to Carbrooke.

Our value this half term is:

Responsibility

School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3:15 (3:10 for Reception). Please be punctual for both ends of the day.

### New Build update

The end of April sees the majority of the outer work completed. The drains are now connected, and the first fix of plumbing and electric has been completed. Next comes the plastering and cladding, which should be completed in the coming days. School have placed a basic order for the new furniture and starting to make choices about finishings.

### Parking

We are all aware of the need for safety at the start and end of the school day. While the staggered drop off in the morning seems to work well, the end of the day is still causing difficulties for local residents, parents and public transport.

There is only limited amounts of parking and we appreciate those who collect promptly and leave straight away. What has become a problem is people parking on the yellow lines outside the school gate and around the corner on Broadmoor. There is space within the school and village hall car park, but then some less considerate parking is causing problems.

We try to work together with the community. All schools do have difficulty with accommodating parking for parents, but the challenges are causing rifts between village groups and the school.

### King's Coronation

Two bank holiday weekends in a row is quite a rare occurrence, but we have 1st and 8th off school. The 8th is in honour of the King's coronation. We are talking about this during the week leading up to the celebration and have also got some celebration medals for the children to have, to treasure as a keepsake. These will be sent home with each child, from us at school, to treasure. As with the Jubilee items, these are collectable memories that can be kept as a reminder of these 'once in a lifetime' events.

The local community have many offers of events—including Carbrooke, Watton, Ovington and Shipdham. Swaffham also are trying to break a world record of serving the most cream teas!



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### Working with the children on improving their vocabulary

During our recent training day the staff undertook some direct training around vocabulary. While this isn't something new for us, it was eye opening around the deficit in very young children—about the words they use and understand, as well as what they hear. Even as young as 5 years old, there is a notable difference between children from different backgrounds, and between boys and girls. Those with better spoken language have better reading skills by age 10, and more likely to have read regularly at home each week. The suggestions also include plenty of parent/child talk and book sharing, and a language rich education with a focus on their social skills.

The work we do with Mrs Garrod for forest school is another example of where pupils can gain experience as well as academic progress.

What aspirations do you have for your children? Do you talk to them about what they want to achieve in life, and lessons you have learned?

### **Curriculum for Summer Term (1st half)**

Nursery: Topic is Amazing Animals , texts are Dear Zoo and Hairy Maclary

Reception: Topic is Farm, texts are Farmer Duck and Rosie's Walk

Year 1: Topic is Castles , texts are Frog and Toad Together and Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?

Year 2: Topic is Happy and Healthy , texts are The Secret Explorers and the Rainforest Rangers and Tidy

Year 3: Topic is Rotten Romans, text is The Roman Quests: Escape from Rome

Year 4: Topic is Tudors , text is My Friend Walter

Year 5: Topic is South America, text is Journey to the River Sea

Year 6: Topic is Anglo Saxons , text is The boy in the tower

### **Dates for your diary:**

Many children have statutory assessments and testing during the Summer Terms—please do not plan holidays during term time.

08/05 Coronation Day Bank Holiday—School Closed

09/05 Yr 6 SATS tests—class breakfast from 8:15

09/05 Yr 6 Spelling Grammar and Punctuation

10/05 Yr 6 Reading

11/05 Yr 6 Maths (papers 1 & 2)

12/05 Yr 6 Maths (paper 3)

15/05 Reception visit to Church Farm

26/05—04/06 School closes for Half Term

05/06 School Term starts for all

05/06 Year 3 visit to Norwich Castle

05/06 New Value—Service

06/06 Year 6 Attleborough transition

06/06 Swimming for Year 3 (weekly until end of term)

06/06 Orchestral Time Machine 1:30pm

12-16/06 Times tables checks Year 4

12-16/06 Phonics Screening checks Year 1

19/06 Year 5 visit to Quest, Thetford

20/06 Year 6 Attleborough transition

27/06 Kidz Club Collective Worship

**03/07 Provisional sports day date**

**03/07 Art Exhibition**

06/07 Year 6 Leavers trip

06/07 Little City for Nursery Children

**07/07 Summer Fair**

07/07 End of year reports sent out

10/07 Year 6 Wayland Transition

11/07 Year 6 SATS results published

18/07 Year 6 Attleborough Transition

20/07 Year 6 Northgate Transition

20/07 Leavers Prom

**21/07 Year 6 Leavers Service 2pm**

**21/07 Leavers and families BBQ & Water Fight**

21/07 End of Term—**After School Club ending at 4:15**

Anything in a bold font means that parents/family are welcome to join in.

### **Birthdays in April Happy Birthday!**

Name	Age
India	9
Alfie	11
Ryan	8
Sienna	4
Daisy	5
Freya	5
Matthew	8
Heidi	4
Ivy	8
Finley	6
Oscar	6
Amelia	6
Hayden	7
Mollie	10
Maddy	11

