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Newsletter 2 October 2025

Term dates for the Autumn Term
Please note these are correct at the time of sending this newsletter, they are subject to change only if necessary
Please keep these dates safe! New dates since the last newsletter are highlighted in yellow.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Tuesday 14th October	Reception Harvest Activity Morning 1 adult per child and no younger siblings please Join us for some Harvest learning and activities	
Tuesday 14th October	Cross Country at Langley for selected Year 1 and 2 children.	
Wednesday 15th October	Reception children Diwali workshop in the hall	
Thursday 16th October	Tours for parents of new Reception children in September 2026	
Friday 17th October 2pm onwards	Years 1 – 6 Harvest activities for one adult per child. Please note we cannot have more than one adult per child due to space and we also cannot have younger siblings. If you have to bring a younger sibling, please book with the office or via dojo and we will set something up in the library or another room for you and your child.	
Monday 20th October at 9.15		Junior School tours for Year 3 intake September 2026
Wednesday 22nd October		Cross country at Langley for selected Year 3-6 children
Wednesday 22nd October	Reception to Year 2 Individual Photos Plus Infant siblings and Junior 'mop up' Please send them in full uniform on this day, not in PE kits if it is their PE day	
Friday 24th October	School closes at 3.15 for Infants and 3.25 for Juniors for Half Term	
Monday 3rd November	School reopens for the new half term at 8.40 am	
Monday 3rd November	Parent consultation email invites sent Online booking opens at 4pm	
Week beginning 3rd November	Individual Education Plans to be shared with parents/carers of children who have an IEP	
Wednesday 5th November		Flu immunisations for Junior children Information will be sent prior to this

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Thursday 6th November		Years 3-6 girls football competition for selected children
Monday 10th November		Year 4 Roman Day An opportunity for those to dress up who wish to and show their learning from this term and from the 'Roman' visitor on 14th October.
Monday 10th November	Anti-bullying week – wear odd socks to school	
Thursday 13th November		Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling event for selected Year 4-6 children
Thursday 13th November	Online parent consultations 4-7 pm	
Friday 14th November	Children in Need – details will follow nearer the time	
Friday 14th November	Year 1 walk around Toftwood	
Monday 17th November	Online parent consultations 4-7 pm	
Wednesday 19th November	Rocksteady assembly for the children – this will tell the children about Rocksteady and who to contact if you would like your child to join. Please note if your child joins this it is a fee paying activity.	
Thursday 20th November	Multi sports festival for selected children at Langley.	Multi sports festival for selected children at Langley.
Friday 21st November		Year 5 Viking Day Year 5 teachers will send further information nearer the time
Monday 24th November	Pre school activity morning for children due to start school in September 2026. Little owls and William Cowper parents will be invited via the Nursery. If your child attends elsewhere and is eligible and you would like them to join, please contact the Infant office. This is a children only event.	
Wednesday 26th November		Flu immunisations for Junior children Information will be sent prior to this (New consents or mop ups)
Monday 1st December	Email and information to book a Christmas Lunch	
Tuesday 2nd December	Reception children vision and hearing checks	
Thursday 4th December 9.30 am	* Dress rehearsal for Year 1 children Junior Hall	
Thursday 4th December 1.45 pm	*Dress rehearsal for Year 2 children Junior Hall	
Monday 8th December	Year 1 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall	
Monday 8th December 1.45		*Dress rehearsal for Year 3 children Junior Hall
Tuesday 9th December 9.15	Year 2 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall	
Tuesday 9th December 1.45pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 4 children Junior Hall
Wednesday 10th December 9.15		Year 3 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Wednesday 10th December 1.45 pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 5 children Junior Hall

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Thursday 11th December 9.15		Year 4 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Thursday 11th December 1.45 pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 6 Junior Hall
Friday 12th December 9.15		Year 5 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Monday 15th December 9.15		Year 6 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Monday 15th December	Year 2 Christmas Party pm	Year 3 Christmas Party pm Year 6 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 16th December	Year 1 Christmas Party pm	Year 4 Christmas Party pm Year 5 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 16th December 9.15 pm	Reception Christmas Performance 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Infant Hall Reception Christmas Party	
Wednesday 17th December	Federation Christmas Lunch This must be booked in advance using the link sent Christmas hats/hair decorations can be worn	
Wednesday 17th December		Junior Rocksteady concert for parents/carers the Infant hall
Thursday 18th December 9am	Infants Rocksteady concert for parents/carers in the Infant hall	
Friday 19th December	Schools close at 3.15/3.25 for the Christmas Holiday Come in something festive or just a favourite outfit for the last day of term	

MSAs

We are pleased to share that we have two new MSAs at Infants – Miss Gray and Miss Dobbs. We hope they enjoy their time working for us and supporting the children.

Lunches

Can all **Junior parents** please ensure their school lunch accounts are paid off in full before we finish for half term. This money is due to be paid to the catering company. You will have had daily reminders if your account needs to be settled.
If you apply for free school meals and they are awarded, then you have to pay for all lunches taken up until the date they are awarded.

Celebrations Boards

In the hall at both Infant and Junior School we have a celebrations board. This is where we celebrate the achievements of the children outside of school. Each class has a space on the board, so we would like parents to dojo the teachers with any special achievements their children have outside of school.
Elsie in GB6 is being celebrated for becoming a **Norfolk County Gymnastics Champion** this week! We would love to have more things to share so please do let us know.

Spy Dog Books

Many of our children enjoy the Spy Dog series of books. We have been made aware that the series has a website address in it offering resources to go with the book. However, the website has been compromised and is displaying material that is very explicit and not suitable for under 18s.
This news article explains more:
https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/spy-dogs-porn-pulled-puffin-kids-online-safety-act-5HjdF4c_2/

We have removed them from the shelves and removed the website address, but if your child has any at home, please be aware of this also.

Fundraising

A huge well done to our staff who completed the Night Shine Walk for Cancer Research. They did this in honour of our much loved friend and former colleague Mrs Feeke, who is living with cancer, as well as for all people affected by cancer.
They raised an incredible £2755.20. Incredible! Thanks to those who completed it and all those staff and family members who donated.



Playground Lines

Well done to all of the families who remembered where to line up when we came back in September. We know the markings are a little faded and we do have a plan to get them repainted as soon as possible.
Can we please remind you to **queue in two lines** for each class and we will dismiss the children to the adults as they come to the front of the line.
Please do not stand to the side and call a child from the line, we need to ensure we see them all across safely.

Archery in Year 1 and 2

The year 1 and 2 children had some exciting lessons in archery earlier this half term! They took part in some sessions with Jamie from the UEA Sportspark focusing on a sport new to many, Archery! They enjoyed learning about aim by playing a buried treasure game before having a go at using the bow and arrow to aim at a target as well as playing archery football. This was a great opportunity for the children to try something new whilst getting to use fundamental movement skills taught in their PE lessons through Real PE.
You can read all about it and see some photos on our website
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/uea-sport-progress-year-1-and-2-autumn-term-2025/

We also had this email from Jamie:
I just wanted to say a huge thank you again for having us in your school. I personally really enjoyed working with your classes & staff – I mentioned to one of your team, but you really do have such a lovely school! All the children were immense and made my job super fulfilling and enjoyable.

It is always lovely to hear such positive feedback about our children from people who come in to work with them. Well done Year 1 and 2. You are great role models.

Year 1 Petting Zoo visit

One of our favourite days of the year is when the mobile petting zoo comes to visit Year 1. Ian brought with him some familiar animals who came to school last year like Thumbelina the Shetland Pony, Bandit the ferret as well as guinea pigs and rabbits. Some new faces came too including Gilbert and Billy, two brother goats along with their mum Hetty! Finger Lickin' and Nugget the chickens and Sabrina the sheep also came for a stroll around the field!
In science, the children have been learning about grouping and classifying animals as well as identifying their body parts. The children are also going to use this visit to write some sentences about facts they have learnt and what their favourite animal was.
Rosie said, 'It was the best day ever! I loved all of the animals.'
Winston said, 'I loved taking the pony for a walk and giving her a brush!"

For more info and photos please see:
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/year-1-visit-from-wycomb-mobile-petting-farm-autumn-1-2025/

Compass Notifications

Both schools use compass as our management information system and parents need to get the app to receive information from us.
From now, all treated First Aid incidents will be sent to you through compass.
However **you do have to enable push notifications for this otherwise you will just receive an email.**
Please ensure you have push notifications enabled to receive this information. This will ensure all notifications come to you directly and do not rely on a paper slip coming home with a child.

Special Assembly

On Wednesday 8th October, the children in KS1 were lucky to have an assembly led by Ian Gardener. Ian focused on our Assembly theme of communities and told the children a bible story of John 9. In this story a man loses his sight and then through his community, who help and look after him, his sight is restored. The children were interested throughout and were excellent role models for our school. Some children even got to come up to the front and re-tell the story with Ian using props.

Ian finished on discussing the communities that we are a part of, and ways that we can support communities, for example through the Harvest and the Poppy Appeal.
Well done KS1 for being good listeners and engaging in such a thoughtful discussion during their assembly.

You can see some photos and further information here:
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/category/special-events/

Supporting Your Child's Development – A Simple Daily Opportunity

We're always looking for ways to help you support your child's learning and development. One powerful way is simply by being present during everyday routines—especially on the walk to and from school.
While you're physically there, being emotionally and mentally present makes a big difference. Talking with your child, pointing out things in the environment, and engaging in conversation helps build their language skills, curiosity, and understanding of the world.
We've noticed that many children, including those in pushchairs, often spend this time watching tablets or phones. While screens can be entertaining, children benefit far more from real-world interactions—spotting colours, numbers, signs, and nature around them. These moments support speech, language development, and social skills.
Research shows that excessive screen time can negatively impact children's ability to focus, interact socially, and even sleep well. Some children tell us they watch YouTube or play games late into the night, which affects their mood, concentration, and ability to engage in learning.
The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends:

- **Under 2 years**: No screen time, except video calls with family.
- **Ages 2–4**: Up to 1 hour per day, ideally less, and not alone.
- **Older children**: Limit non-educational screen time and prioritise sleep, exercise, and face-to-face interaction.

For school-aged children, screen time should ideally be no more than **2 hours per day**, including time on phones, tablets, TVs, and gaming devices. If reducing screen time feels challenging, try offering alternatives like books, puzzles, crafts, or family activities such as walks or board games.
Children learn best through real-life experiences—talking, playing, problem-solving, and being creative. These interactions help them develop expressive language and social confidence far more effectively than passive screen use.

We also encourage adults to model healthy habits. When collecting your child, please consider putting phones away and giving them your full attention. A warm greeting and a chat about their day shows them they matter—and helps build strong communication skills.
For more advice, these links offer helpful tips:

- https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/why-limiting-screen-time-children-and-young-people-good-idea
- https://www.tutordoctor.co.uk/blog/2019/april/why-its-important-to-limit-your-childs-screen-ti/

Using Class Dojo Safely – A Reminder for Parents and Carers

Class Dojo is a fantastic tool for staying connected with your child's learning and celebrating their achievements. It allows teachers to share updates, photos, and messages directly with families. However, it's important to use the app safely and ensure your privacy settings are secure.
To help protect your personal information, we recommend checking the following settings:

- **Profile Visibility**: Make sure your profile is only visible to your child's teacher. Other parents should not be able to see your name, photo, or any personal details.
- **Photo Sharing**: If you upload a profile photo, consider using a neutral image rather than a personal photo.
- **Notifications**: Adjust your notification settings to suit your preferences and avoid sharing updates publicly.
- **Messaging**: Use the messaging feature to communicate directly with your child's teacher. Avoid posting personal information in class-wide comment sections.

If you're unsure how to check or update these settings, you can visit the Class Dojo Help Centre.
We want all families to feel confident using Class Dojo as a safe and secure way to stay involved in school life. Thank you for helping us keep our school community respectful and protected.

Boosting Maths Confidence with Times Table Rockstars (Years 2-6)

We'd love your support in helping your child practise their times tables at home using **Times Table Rockstars**. This fun and engaging platform helps children build speed and accuracy with multiplication facts—skills that are essential for success in maths.
Regular practice, even just a few minutes a day, can make a big difference. Children who use Times Table Rockstars consistently often show greater confidence in lessons, improved mental maths, and better problem-solving skills.
Here's how you can help:

- Encourage your child to log in a few times a week.
- Celebrate their progress and achievements.
- Make it part of your routine—perhaps after dinner or before bedtime.
- Join in! A little friendly competition can be a great motivator.

If you need help accessing the platform or logging in, please speak to your child's teacher. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home!

Times Table Rockstars – Parent Guide
Why it matters:
Times tables are the foundation of many areas in maths. Quick recall helps children with division, fractions, problem-solving, and more. Times Table Rockstars makes learning fun and helps children improve speed and accuracy.
How to Get Started at Home

1. **Log In**
    - Visit: https://ttrockstars.com
    - Use your child's login details provided by school. If you need help, please contact your child's teacher.
2. **Choose a Game Mode**
    - **Garage**: Tailored to your child's level.
    - **Studio**: Tests overall speed.
    - **Arena**: Play live with classmates.
    - **Festival**: Compete with players worldwide.
3. **Set a Routine**
    - Aim for 5–10 minutes a day.
    - Make it part of your evening routine or use it as a fun break between homework tasks.
4. **Celebrate Progress**
    - Praise effort and improvement.
    - Look out for certificates or shout-outs from school!

Tips for Parents
✓ Encourage regular practice
✓ Join in for a fun challenge
✓ Avoid pressure—keep it light and positive
✓ Ask your child what they're learning
✓ Celebrate small wins!

Safe Parking Around School – Keeping Children Safe

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park safely and responsibly when dropping off or collecting children from school. Parking on **zigzag lines**, **double yellow lines**, or in unsafe spots near the school gates puts children at serious risk and may result in fines or penalties.

⊘ Why Zigzag Lines Matter

Yellow zigzag lines outside school entrances are there to keep the area clear so children can cross safely and be seen by drivers. Parking on these lines—even for a short time—**obstructs visibility**, making it harder for children to see oncoming traffic and for drivers to spot children crossing. This increases the risk of accidents, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

⚠ The Legal Side

- **Zigzag lines**: If there's an upright sign nearby, it is **illegal to stop or park** during the times shown. You could receive a **Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)** from the council or a **Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)** from the police.
- **Double yellow lines**: Parking is **prohibited at all times**, unless you have a valid Blue Badge and follow specific rules. Even stopping briefly can result in a fine or your vehicle being towed.
- **Opposite zigzag lines**: Parking here can also be dangerous, as it narrows the road and makes crossing more hazardous for children.

🚸 The Impact on Children

Poor parking behaviour near schools:

- Reduces visibility for children and drivers.
- Blocks access for emergency vehicles.
- Increases congestion and stress for families and staff.
- Can lead to serious accidents involving young pedestrians. ✓ **What You Can Do**
- **Never park on zigzag or double yellow lines.**
- **Avoid blocking driveways, dropped kerbs, or junctions.**
- **Park a little further away and walk—this is safer and healthier.**
- **Allow extra time for drop-off and pick-up.**
- **Be a role model for safe and respectful driving.**

Let's work together to keep our children safe and make the school environment calm and welcoming for everyone.

Call-Back Requests – Thank You for Your Patience

We understand that sometimes you may need to speak with a member of the school leadership team, and we appreciate your patience while waiting for a call back.

Please be assured that all requests are noted and responded to **as soon as possible**. However, our school leaders are often involved in a range of responsibilities throughout the day, including:

- Supporting children with learning and wellbeing
- Leading safeguarding and pastoral care
- Managing staff and school operations
- Responding to urgent or unexpected situations
- Teaching or covering classes
- Training or meetings

These duties may mean that call-backs can't always happen immediately, but we will always aim to respond within a reasonable timeframe.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. If your query is urgent, please let either school office know so we can prioritise accordingly.

Thank You for Joining Our Reception Harvest Activity Morning

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers of our Reception children who joined us for our Harvest-themed activity morning. It was wonderful to see so many of you taking part in crafts and activities alongside your children.

Your presence and involvement mean so much to us. These shared experiences help strengthen the connection between home and school, and give children a real sense of pride and excitement in their learning.

We truly value having you in school and look forward to welcoming you again for future events. Thank you for being part of your child's educational journey.

Could You Be a School Governor?

We are currently looking for individuals who may be interested in joining our **Governing Body**. This is a rewarding opportunity to support the federation and help shape its future.

The role of a school governor involves:

- Supporting the strategic direction of the school
- Asking thoughtful questions and offering guidance

- Helping ensure the school provides high-quality education and care
- Attending meetings and working collaboratively with school leaders

You don't need to be an education expert—just someone who cares about children's learning and wellbeing. Skills in areas such as finance, HR, health and safety, or community engagement are especially valuable, but not essential.

This opportunity is open not only to parents and carers, but also to **wider family members** or anyone in the community who would like to contribute.

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact the school office. We'd love to hear from you!

Mental Health in Schools Team

Our Mental Health Support Team is here to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and understood whilst at home and at school. We know that mental well-being is just as important as physical health for your child's success and happiness.

Our practitioners can deliver interventions that enables parents & carers to support their children who may be displaying signs of anxiety such as worrying about being away from parents/carers or worries about school. We also can work with parents/carers around how they manage behaviour, such as boundary setting, positive attention and praise to help improve communication.

We also work closely with schools, offering one off consultations and whole school approach work, where we deliver workshops to parents, teachers and children. On topics such as, understanding anxiety, understanding wellbeing and navigating friendships.

If your child is struggling or you have concerns about their mental health, our team is here to listen and support both your child and your family. Please speak with a member of school staff who can support in making the referral to our service.

Breckland MHST



NORSE Recipes

NORSE, our caterers, have shared with us another recipe. This one is for a Beetroot Brownie. These are delicious – you cannot taste the beetroot, but it makes for a very moist brownie and the children enjoy them.

Makes 10–12

norse group

Beetroot Brownie

This sounds like a crazy combination but trust us – it works!
The beetroot gives a lovely depth of flavour
and adds moistness to the sponge.



Ingredients list

- 125g Self-Raising Flour
- 25g Cocoa Powder
- 110g Caster Sugar
- 2x Eggs - beaten
- 175ml Vegetable Oil
- 1tsp Vanilla Essence
- 50g Cooked Beetroot – grated

Method

1. Sift the flour and cocoa powder into a mixing bowl.
2. Mix in the sugar.
3. Add the vegetable oil, vanilla essence, eggs, and beetroot and mix well.
4. Pour into a greased and lined tin, measuring approx. 20cm x 26cm.
5. Bake in a pre-heated oven at Gas Mark 4, 180°C for 25–30 minutes.
6. Turn out on to a cooling rack and leave to cool.
7. Dust with icing sugar and enjoy!

Community News and Half Term Events

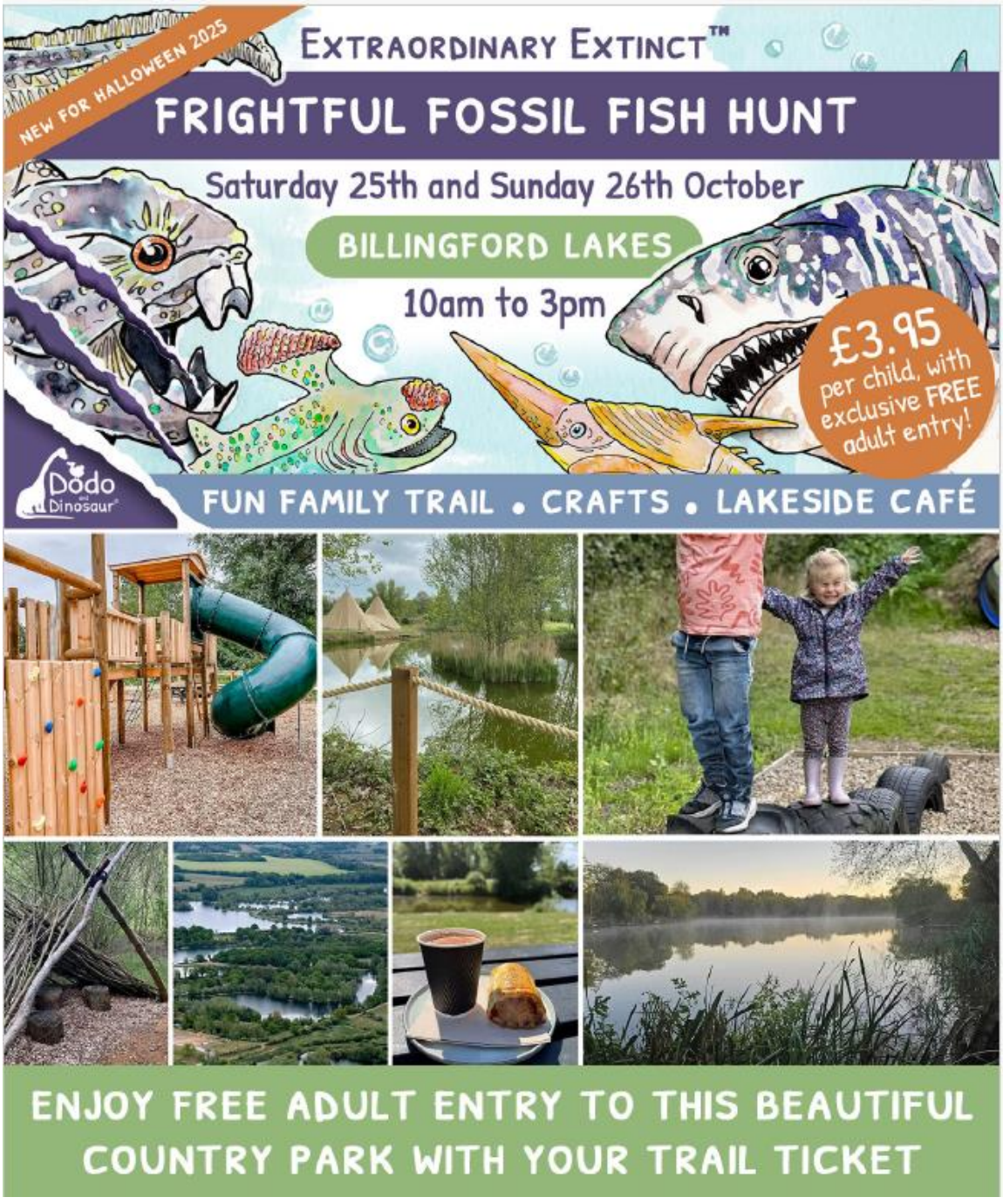
Frightful Fossil Hunt at Billingford Lakes

Head out on an autumnal adventure at Billingford Lakes & Country Park in the heart of Norfolk to discover ten fascinating prehistoric fish around the lake before returning to create your own megalodon tooth medal to take home!

Families can also enjoy exploring adventure play throughout the park. Tickets are just £3.95, with accompanying adults FREE, as the event doubles as a special open day to experience all this beautiful country park has to offer.

Please visit dodoanddinosaur.com/events for tickets and more information. We hope to see you there!

🗓 When: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 📍 Where: Billingford Lakes & Country Park, NR20 4RG 🕒 Time: 10am to 3pm 🎟 Tickets: £3.95 per child, with accompanying adults free



Half Term Holiday Camps







New Under 9 Girls Football team



Junior Tennis Camp (Age 5-10 Years)

