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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 13 June 2026

A busy half term ahead

Yet again we have a busy half term ahead of us. The year has gone so quickly!

This half term and last we have had visits for Years R to 5 and the children have enjoyed these experiences and opportunities. We thank you for your financial support to let these trips go ahead. We would not be able to run them without your support.

We are also still having visitors in and we have had Dereham Pool for drowning prevention week, which links well to our assemblies on water safety and also the information we sent you last week. Such things are important to share with the children to keep themselves safe.

Reception today had a pirate themed dance workshop and really enjoyed themselves.

We have also had a visit form Neatherd High to talk about transition to high school, which was really supportive for the children and some of our Year 6 have had additional transitions where required to support a successful start to high School.

We have also held our New Starters' evening for new Year R parents which was well attended and the first evening one since before COVID for everyone, so it was lovely to see all of the families, new and old!

Please do check the website for details of what the children have been up to. There is too much to put on one newsletter, but we do ensure the children have a rich and exciting school experience when they are with us!

Junior Race Day and Sports' Enrichment Week

Sadly we had to cancel both of the dates we had on the diary for race day for Juniors due to the weather. I know some people may have been disappointed, but we cannot fit another date into our diary this term due to the number of events we have taking place! We really appreciate all of the support given by your attendance at our events and fitting time into very busy lives, but sadly we just cannot squeeze it in. Mrs Morton and Mr Barnard have planned an enormous programme of sports' activities for sports' enrichment week that is coming up in the week beginning the 29th June, and all children will get the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities and sports that all link to clubs in the local community they could then attend. These include:

- Karate
- Hockey
- Orienteering
- Cricket
- Boogie Bounce
- Short Tennis with UEA
- Yoga
- Team Day

The children are so lucky to have these experiences in school and we thank Mrs Morton and Mr Barnard for their hard work in booking them.

Staff Changes

As always at the end of a school year there are staff changes as people move on and life takes a different direction.

Mrs King leaves us at the end of term. She joined us as an MSA and TA and more recently has been working as an HLTA covering classes and has also done a brilliant job in extending and maintaining the school library and promoting a love of reading amongst the children. She has thrown herself into the residential each year and given considerable amounts of her own time, to ensure Year 6 can have a successful residential. Mrs King leaves to do her paramedicine degree at the UEA. She has been working on her foundation entry course this year to be able to do this, alongside working with us, and has been accepted to follow her dream of becoming a paramedic. Mrs King is an excellent example to the children of how hard work and commitment pays off and it is never too late to follow your ambitions.

Mrs Logdon also leaves us at the end of the term. Mrs Logdon has been a TA with us for many years and is o the only TA to have worked in every year group in the Federation, from Reception to Year 6. Mrs Logdon has covered classes whenever asked and has a lovely relationship with staff and children alike. She feels the time is right to leave with the Year 6 who she has been with since Year 3, and looks forward to more family time and also more time gardening!

Mrs Newcombe also leaves us at the end of term. Mrs Newcombe has also been with us for many years and started in the Infant school and has been working in Year 3 and 4 for the past few years. She has been a very dedicated and supportive TA for all children, working also with some children with challenging behaviours and supporting them to be successful in their school life. Her patience and manner with the children has been lovely to see and much appreciated. She leaves to spend more time with her grandson and eagerly awaits the arrival of her next grandchild!

Mrs Thorne left us at half term. Mrs Thorne has been a TA and an MSA at the Junior School for over 20 years and has taken on every challenge she has been given! It is an exceptional commitment to be in a school for that long a period and still say she has never had a day she hasn't wanted to come into work. Her dedication to the children and in supporting them has been valued highly. Some of you may have had her as your TA if you went to the Junior School. She is now looking forward to spending more time with her family and term time holidays!

Miss Wicks leaves us at the end of term. Miss Wicks joined us when she qualified as a teacher and it has been a pleasure to support her and watch her grow into the fabulous teacher she is. Her calm and caring nature, as well as her excellent classroom practice has made her a very valued member of our Federation community. Miss Wicks leaves us to go travelling around Canada and New Zealand and we wish her an enjoyable and exciting trip!

Although we are very sad to see them all go as they have been fantastic members of staff and our Federation community and we are richer for having had them work in our schools. We are so pleased for all of them that they are taking their next steps in life and hope they will all be very happy in the future. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures.

Working Together

The aim for all of us is to work with parents/carers and one way we would like your support is when there have been **behaviour incidents** or other incidents involving your child. All children may make an inappropriate behaviour choice at one time or another, but it is vital you reinforce the message we give them about this to ensure we can build sensible children for the future who know right from wrong and that also teaches them to take accountability, not make excuses, for their actions.

We also appreciate support reinforcing with your children that **rules are to be followed** for a reason. Every school has rules and it is important you support following them with your child and lead by example so they can see a consistent message. This also applies to **uniform** and other areas of school.

High School and the workplace will also have rules and by following them, even if you do not agree with them, we develop our children into respectful individuals who can function well as not only children, but as adults.

Thankyou for your support.

Important Changes to Free School Meals

From September, **more families** will be eligible for Free School Meals!
All households on **Universal Credit** are becoming eligible.
If you do receive **Universal Credit or are eligible**, **please apply** for the Free School Meals for September, even if your child is at the Infant School or will never have a school meal. This triggers more funding for schools which means we can continue to provide the experiences and opportunities we do now without asking for parental contributions and keep our interventions, such as ELSA, maths and English running.
It also means you can access **free holiday activities for your child** and other opportunities,
Any questions, please ask.
You can apply here:
https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/
You will need to make an account first. **If you need any help with this, please let us know.**

Norfolk County Council

Free School Meals is changing: here's what you need to know

Free School Meals (FSM) is changing from September 2026. Please read each point, as this may affect your eligibility.

1. More families are becoming eligible

All households on Universal Credit are becoming eligible, with two tiers of entitlement:

- **Targeted:** if you earn under £7,400 a year, your children will be entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- **Expanded:** if you earn above £7,400: your children will be entitled to FSM only

All households who receive other qualifying benefits will also receive Targeted FSM. A full list of qualifying benefits is available on our webpage: www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
You will only need to apply once per child.

2. Protected entitlements are ending

Children who were previously assessed as eligible for FSM had their eligibility protected. This meant they could not lose their FSM, even if the household was no longer eligible. These protections are ending in September, meaning some children may lose their existing eligibility. We will contact you to confirm your eligibility before the end of the summer holiday.

3. Annual eligibility rechecks

We will recheck the eligibility of all children on an annual basis. **Parents already in receipt of benefits related FSM do not need to reapply**, as your eligibility will be rechecked and confirmation of this will be sent to you before the end of the summer holiday.

4. No Recourse to Public Funds

Due to these changes, **all households that qualify as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and receive FSM must reapply** or you will lose your entitlement.

Questions

If you have any questions following receipt of your updated eligibility, please contact us at:
fsm@norfolk.gov.uk

Applying online

www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The easiest and quickest way to apply is online via Norfolk Education Online (NEO).
Scan the code or visit the link and click 'Apply for free school meals'.

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Diary Dates
New dates or amendments are in yellow

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Monday 22nd June 9.15 - 11	New Year R children in with a parent/carer in their new classes	Library Service for Year 3 book club
Tuesday 23rd June	Family Picnic on the Field. Check your emails already sent for details. There will also be a pre loved uniform sale and a children's book sale.	
Friday 26th June	EYFS multi skills festival for selected children	
Friday 26th June	SAW day for all children (Science and Writing) An email has been sent, please check the details.	
Week beginning 29th June	Sports' enrichment week for all children Chances to try out new sports and activities and work together collaboratively	
Tuesday 30th June	UEA PGCE Teaching Students last day	
Friday 3rd July		Year 6 Greek day
Wednesday 8th July	Annual reports available on the Compass App at 4 pm	
Wednesday 8th July		Rocksteady performance for parents at 10 am
Wednesday 8th July		Year 6 performance for those who have younger children or cannot attend on the 9th as at infant Rocksteady concert Please note each child has 2 adult seats and if you come to this performance you cannot send other adults to the following day due to space restrictions
Thursday 9th July	Rocksteady performance for parents at 9.15 am Infant Hall	Year 6 performance for parents Strictly 2 seats per person and no younger children If your 2 adult seats were for the dress rehearsal, you cannot come again or send others on the second day .
Friday 10th July		Year 6 Leavers' Celebration day including disco, entertainment and a foam party Please ensure they wear sensible clothing and footwear that is suitable for being covered in foam!
Friday 10th July	Last day in current classes for all children	
Monday 13th July	All children move to their new September classes for the week for enhanced transition	
Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th July		Year 6 to Dereham High Schools
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term for all children in Reception to Year 5	

Classical Musician Visit
The Junior children were lucky enough to have a visit from a classical musician recently. She is a well known clarinet player. They are so lucky to see a live music performance.
We were so pleased to receive this feedback from her about her visit:
"I've just had a truly wonderful morning. The children were exceptionally well behaved, deeply engaged, and asked such thoughtful, perceptive questions. It was an absolute pleasure to play for everyone today. Please do pass on my heartfelt thanks to the school, and especially to the pupils, whose attentive listening and genuine curiosity made the experience so rewarding. Their openness and enthusiasm were a real joy to encounter. Opportunities like these are a privilege; there is something profoundly beautiful about sharing music with young people and encouraging their curiosity, creativity, and imagination. If even a small spark of inspiration was kindled this morning, then it was entirely worthwhile."

Community News and Events

Smart Swim



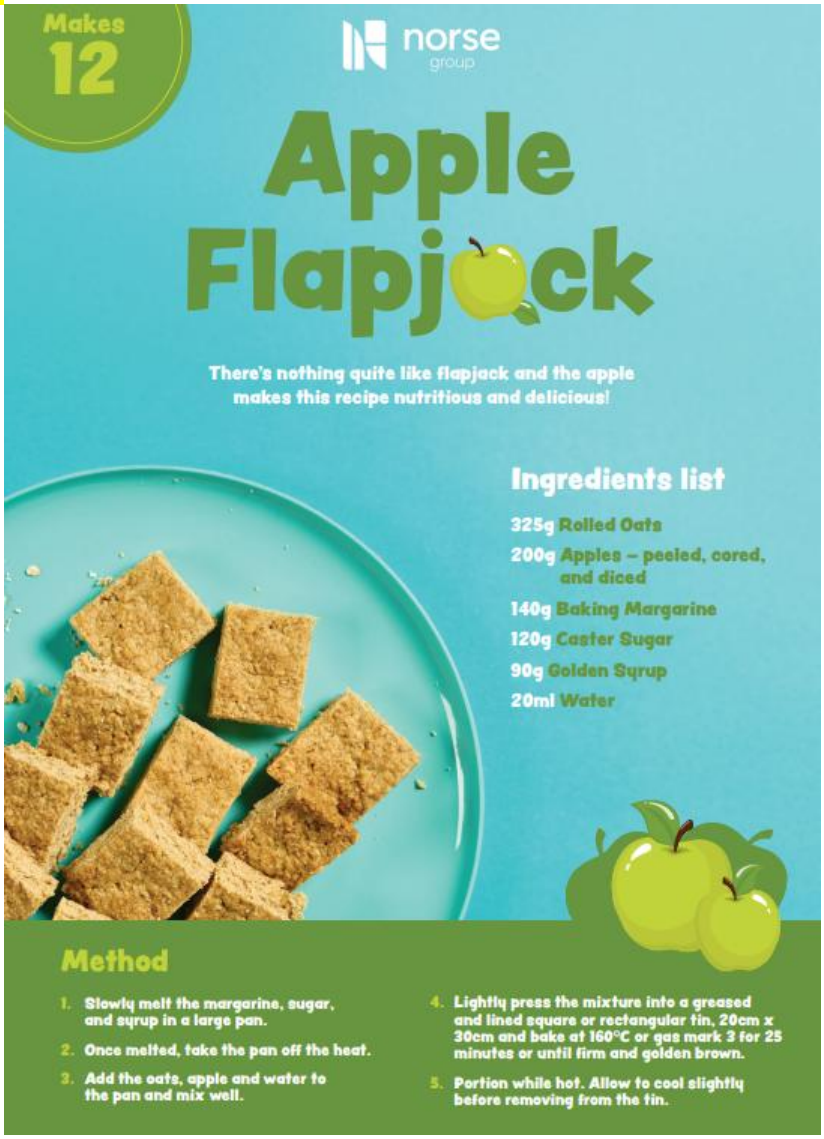
Kayaking



Able 2B



Recipe From NORSE



Debt Centre News

May 2026

Dereham Baptist Church

in partnership with christians against poverty CAP

Welcome



Kathryn joins our team from the 1st of June, she will be training as a Debt Coach - enabling more clients to be helped with their debts. With a background in education, and an experienced member of our volunteer team we know that she will be fab.

Expanding our centre has only been possible with the financial support of local churches, individuals and grants - THANK YOU

Auriol Tessier Charitable Trust ☆ Norfolk Community Foundation Inspiring communities AVIVA Community Fund

As food prices continue to rise we have some tips for saving money:

- 1) Create a food shop budget - try cheaper alternatives and avoid adding extra items into your trolley
- 2) Be aware of yellow labels and special offers - are they really a bargain?
- 3) Check the cost per amount - perhaps bulk buying is cheaper as long as you will use it all
- 4) Check the best before date - will you eat it before it goes to waste?
- 5) Try budget recipes - look online for tasty meal ideas

Our debt services are free, and available for those living in Dereham and the surrounding villages. There are other centres in Norfolk and across the UK.

For free debt help phone **0800 328 0006**. Visit capuk.org for more info