# SCHOOL YEAR 2026/27- NEWSLETTER NO 3

*Dear Friends,*

*Last week the world celebrated the 100th birthday of Winnie the Pooh. I doubt there are many parents amongst us who have not read Winnie the Pooh stories to our children at one time or another. For those of us who work in schools it is easy to see why the characters in the stories have remained timeless as they perfectly reflect the nature of children and the pure pleasure (and sometimes pain) that childhood brings. As we head towards the end of the first half term, I wonder if you recognise your own children in Winnie the Pooh or his friends?*

*Winnie the Pooh is friendly and kind and always willing to help his companions. He is creative and enjoys humming tunes and making up poems, although he can easily be distracted especially by things that he loves i.e honey. He lives in the moment and finds joy in simple pleasures. He would definitely be a candidate for the kindness cup in our celebration assemblies!*

*Perhaps your child is more of a 'Piglet'. He is a bit of a worrier, but his loyalty to his friends always outweighs his nervousness. He can overcome his fright if it means that he can help others. He would certainly enjoy some confidence building sessions with Mrs Astley. Eeyore could also join Mrs Astley's friendship group – he would be an excellent role model as he is steadfastly loyal to his friends and his dry humour makes him very popular.*

*Tigger is full of boundless energy and unshakeable confidence. He is fearless and upbeat and wonderful at protecting younger friends. He has been known to jump into situations without thinking which can lead to accidental chaos. Let's hope there haven't been too many Tiggers at Eaton Vale this week or Mr Hall-Galley is going to be exhausted! Rabbit loves neatness (perfect for an Eaton Vale dorm) and he is a bit of a perfectionist (great for practising handwriting). He likes to be in control of the plans and can come across as being bossy or impatient, but he is 100% reliable and always well-meaning.*

*Owl is the clever expert (every class has one!). He enjoys sharing his stories and advice and loves to sound wise. Finally, you may recognise Christopher Robin who solves everyone's problems and is always the voice of reason – a teacher in the making maybe!*

*Whether your child is Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, Rabbit, Owl or Christopher Robin we hope that you have a wonderful half term exploring childhood with them,*

*"If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever.' – Winnie the Pooh*

*Wishing you a honey-filled half term holiday,*
*With Best Wishes,*
*Mrs Bearman and the Aldborough Team*

Please go to: **www.aldborough.norfolk.sch.uk**




# *Aldborough Working Together*

**EATON VALE –** This week our year 5 and 6 children had the most amazing trip to Eaton Vale. They were a credit to the school throughout their visit and a great time was had by all. Thank you to all the parents who supported the children in organising their kit and for ensuring that the trip happened with their financial contributions. A huge thank you to Mr Hall-Galley, Mrs Meyrick and Mrs Stanbury who organised their family life in order to be on the trip with the children – it goes without saying that without their goodwill the trip couldn't happen. Thank you to Mrs Knight who sent numerous emails (and then even more) and had many sleepless nights while she thought through the organisation of the trip. Finally, thank you to the staff who were left behind at school who stepped up with extra break duties and classroom responsibilities especially as we were hit with major staff illness this week – you all channelled your inner Winnie the Pooh!

**UNOFFICIAL ONE WAY SYSTEM** – Most parents will be aware that we have an unofficial one way system outside school in order to ease congestion at school drop off and pick up times. We are very grateful to all the local residents in the village who also use the one way system if they need to drive in and out of the village at these times. As a general 'rule' we ask that parents and carers avoid the Middle Hill route into school from 2.45 a.m. onwards. If everyone takes the route through the village and approaches Alby Hill with the school on their left hand side it should avoid any unnecessary reversing or aggressive encounters. Many thanks for your support with this.

**HARVEST CELEBRATION –** A massive thank you to everyone who sent donations for our Harvest celebration – you donated an incredible 151.65 kg of food – yes, the food bank weigh it all! It is so important as a rural community to celebrate those who work on the land and the food that is produced. It is also an important lesson for the children to learn about helping others in our community. The North Norfolk Foodbank will ensure that all of our donations go to those who need it most. Mr Bearman, who has volunteered for the Food bank for the last 7 years, will be delivering some of the harvest food parcels in the run up to Christmas so we know first-hand the joy and relief that your donations bring. We would like to say a huge thank you to Jamie Payne from the North Norfolk Foodbank who joined us for our harvest celebration and shared important messages about care, compassion and cups of tea with the children.

**THANK YOU –** Last Wednesday Reverend Andrew came to lead our Key Stage 2 assembly to talk to the children about the importance of saying thank you for the Harvest and for everyone who is involved in food production. He also discussed food waste and how we can all make a difference to this. Reverend Andrew was joined by Mr King from Aldborough who brought his vintage tractor for the children to learn about. It was quite a moment when the tractor was fired up for the first time – I am sure you could hear it in the village! We are so lucky to have the support of our local community in helping the children learn about such important issues.

**SCHOOL LUNCHES AND SNACKS –** Tracy, Kerry and Brodie do an amazing job in our kitchen keeping the children (and often the staff) healthy and happy with the delicious food that they prepare. They are now facing a new challenge as they navigate the new School Food Standards which you may have heard about in the media. We are making a few changes in order to meet the new standards for example the kitchen team will be finding even more inventive ways to include fruit and vegetables in their lovely lunches and snacks. As you will all know, the children in Year 1 and 2 are all entitled to a free school lunch. We have had a few enquiries recently from parents asking if they can opt out of their hot school lunch. Whilst other changes are happening in the kitchen this feels like the right time to make that change and to give parents the option of providing their own packed lunch for their child in year 1 or 2 if they would like to do so. The children would need to be able to tell their teacher each morning if they are a hot lunch or a packed lunch. The children in Reception Year will continue with their hot lunches without any exceptions. This change will come into effect after the October half term.

**PACKED LUNCHES –** On the subject of packed lunches, please could parents and carers talk to their children about the food that they would like to eat in their packed lunch. We have some children who eat very little or attempt to throw food away because they don't want to eat it. It is important that children have a packed lunch that they enjoy during the school day.

**BIKEABILITY –** Just a reminder that some of the children in year 6 will be taking part in Bikeability from Monday 2nd November until Thursday 5th November. Please make sure that the children have coats with them in case we have wet weather. Bikes should be brought into school on Monday morning please. They will be locked away over night in the hall so that they are safe. Bikes should go home with the children at the end of the day on Thursday.

**MAGAZINES – THANK YOU –** Mr Caston would like to thank everyone who sent in magazines for his collage club. He has now read them all (!) and feels that he has enough to keep him going. Many thanks to everyone who helped with this.

**PARENTS' EVENINGS**- Thank you to everyone who signed up for a parents' evening appointment. We look forward to welcoming you all to school after half term to discuss your children's learning and progress. Both evenings are set to be very busy so we will once again be using our bell system. For parents who are new to the school this means that a bell will ring to alert parents and teachers that the 10 minute slot is finished and it is time to move on. We ask that all parents respect the bell so that other parents aren't kept waiting unnecessarily which causes upset for everyone involved. Should you feel that you need more time with class teachers following the parents' evening appointment then please make a further appointment through the office. We are always happy to talk to parents.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS –** On Tuesday 3rd November Tempest Photography will be taking individual and sibling photos of the children. If any families would like to have a photo with older brothers and sisters plus younger pre-school siblings, please come to the Office at 8.45 a.m. on the day so that the photographer can take photos before the school day begins.

**SCHOOL ACCOUNTS** – Could all outstanding school accounts be settled regularly. Thank you for your support.

**SPOOKY STORIES DRESS UP DAY –** On Friday 13th November (note the spooky date!) we will be holding our spooky stories dress up day. The children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite spooky character (please remember we have little children in school who don't want to be scared!) We ask for a £1.00 donation from each child to go

towards supporting the children. The children can give their £1.00 donation to the class teachers or to the office on the day. The dressing up day will be followed by The Friends Halloween Disco – more information coming soon.

**FAMILY LEARNING AFTERNOON –** Parents who are new to the school may not be aware of our Family Learning Afternoons. These are times when all parents and carers (or grandparents if parents can't make it) are invited into school for the afternoon to learn alongside the children. The 'learning' often involves art and craft activities although we do challenge you to the odd bit of poetry or even a pentathlon every now and then! Our next Family Learning Afternoon is on Tuesday December 1st when the children will be making decorations to sell at the Christmas Fayre. Please do come along to support the children and the staff if you can. Doors open at 1.45 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start.

**OPEN MORNINGS RECEPTION 2027 –** We will be holding open mornings for parents of children due to start school in Reception 2027. The visits will be on :
Thursday 12th November at 9.15 a.m.
Friday 3rd December at 9.15 a.m.
PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!



## *Dates for your Diaries*



| **DATES LIST 2026** | |
|---|---|
| | **OCTOBER** |
| **Friday 23rd October – Friday 30th October** | **HALF TERM HOLIDAY**<br><br>**Please note the additional Friday on 23rd October as holiday** |
| | **NOVEMBER** |
| **Monday 2nd November + Thursday 5th November** | **Parents' Evenings** |
| **Monday 2nd November to Thursday 5th November** | **Bikeability for year 6 children** |
| **Tuesday 3rd November** | **Individual school photos (+ siblings)** |
| **Tuesday 10th November** | **NHS Flu vaccinations for children who have permission** |
| **Friday 13th November** | **Spooky Stories Dressing Up Day (£1.00 donation please)** |
| | **DECEMBER** |
| **Tuesday 1st December** | **Christmas Family Learning Afternoon (Doors open at 1.45 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start)** |
| **Saturday 5th December** | **Christmas Fair – venue and timings tbc** |
| **Tuesday 8th December** | **Nativity Performance – Chestnut and Cherry Blossom Class 9.15 a.m.** |
| **Wednesday 9th December** | **Nativity Performance – Chestnut and Cherry Blossom Class 9.15 a.m.** |

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| **Wednesday December 16th** | **Whole School Trip to Sheringham Little Theatre Pantomime** |
| **Thursday December 17th** | **Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day** |
| **Friday 18th December** | **Carols around the tree 2.30 p.m. – invited guests only**<br><br>**Last day of the Autumn Term** |
| | **JANUARY** |
| **Tuesday 4th January** | **First day of the Spring Term for children** |

