



Yox Valley Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 - October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of what has felt like a very long half term, I think we can all agree that a well-earned break is much needed. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and see them settle so well into their routines.

It's also been a pleasure to invite families into school for our celebration assemblies and Harvest events. Thank you for joining us and being part of these special moments.

We hope you had the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher last week to discuss their progress and celebrate their achievements. If you couldn't attend, please do arrange an appointment after half term. These conversations are important for reviewing progress, addressing any concerns, and recognising successes.

Staffing Update

We're delighted to share two positive staffing updates with our school community:

- Mrs Pates will be returning from maternity leave after half term. She will be working three days a week (Monday to Wednesday), spending one day at each of our schools. Mrs Pates will be working closely with Mrs Lawrence, our current SENDCo, and will gradually take over this important role.
- We're also pleased to announce that Ms Michelle Brierley has been formally appointed as our Key Stage 2 teacher. She will continue teaching Apollo Class, and we're thrilled to have her in this permanent role.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Trust takes its GDPR responsibilities very seriously. We are committed to ensuring that personal data is used, processed, and stored in line with legal requirements.

All staff receive annual GDPR training as part of our statutory September programme, and each school undergoes a yearly audit conducted by our Data Protection Officer. This ensures compliance and keeps parents informed about relevant policies and privacy notices.

To help pupils better understand data protection, we will hold an assembly at the start of next half term. This will explain what data we collect, who can access it, and how we keep it secure.

For new families or anyone wishing to revisit this information, all GDPR-related policies and privacy notices are available on the Trust website.



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Locality Committee

What is the Locality Committee?

Our Locality Committee is a group made up of parents, staff, and community members who work together to support the school and help it continue to improve. They monitor progress against the school's development plans, ask thoughtful and constructive questions, and represent the voice of the local community.

The committee meets:

- Once a term with school leaders to review priorities.
- Once a term with other Locality Committees across the Trust to share ideas and experiences.

This collaboration helps keep our school connected, accountable, and focused on providing the best possible education and experience for our pupils.

Who is on the Committee?

Currently, our Locality Committee includes:

- One parent from Yoxford
- One parent from Southwold
- A community representative: Chris Duke

Chris is a local business owner who lives in Darsham. He moved to the area two years ago and has two older sons—one at university and one in secondary school. You can contact him at C.Duke@consortiumtrust.org.uk.

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in learning more or becoming a locality committee member. In particular, we're keen to welcome a parent from Middleton Primary School so that each school in our community has a parent representative.

Please get in touch with the school if you'd like to find out more.

Reminders and Notices

- Jumpers: Please ensure all jumpers are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Snacks: We encourage children to bring healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, a small bag of crisps, or a cereal bar.
- Water Bottles: Please send your child in with a water bottle each day, ideally filled with water.
- Colder Weather: As autumn settles in and winter approaches, please ensure your child brings a suitable coat daily. We aim to have outdoor breaks even in wet weather.

Yoxford Families Only Children must have a change of footwear for break times. With the field becoming wetter and muddier, a pair of wellies or old trainers is essential. Without them, children will not be allowed on the field. Please ensure these are labelled.

Wishing you a happy half term.

Katy Last, Academy Head



Half Term 27th October - 31st October
Last Day of term Friday 19th December
Christmas Holidays 22nd December - 2nd January
PD day 5th January
Back to school 6th January

Middleton

- 13th November I Made this digital workshop
- 14th November Children In Need
- 17th November Flu Vaccines
- 18th November Individual school photos
- 26th November Reception Open Afternoon 1pm-2:30pm

DECEMBER

- 5th December Celebration Assembly 9am
- 8th December Christmas Performance 2pm
- 9th December Christmas Performance 9am
- 11th Christmas Jumper day
- 12th December Theatre Trip (Whole School)
- 16th December Christmas Dinner
- 16th December Christmas Carol Service 2:15pm

2026

- 9th January Reception Open Morning 10am - 12pm
- 30th January Celebration Assembly 9am
- 13th March Celebration Assembly 9am

Southwold

- 24th October Flu Vaccines
- 10th November Individual school photos
- 14th November Children In Need

DECEMBER

- 5th December Reception open morning 10am-11am
- 10th December Christmas Performance 2pm
- 11th December Christmas Performance 9am
- 11th Christmas Jumper day
- 12th December Celebration Assembly 8:45am
- 16th December Panto Theatre Trip
- 17th Christmas Dinner
- 18th Christmas Carol Service 2:15pm

2026

- 9th January Reception Open afternoon 1:30pm - 3pm
- 6th February Celebration Assembly 8:45am
- 20th March Celebration Assembly 8:45am

Yoxford & Peasenhall

- 14th November Children In Need
- 18th November Individual school photos
- 19th November Reception Open Afternoon 1:30pm-3pm
- 28th November I Made this digital workshop

DECEMBER

- 10th December Christmas Performance 9am & 2pm
- 11th Christmas Jumper day
- 12th December Panto Theatre Trip
- 16th December Christmas Dinner
- 17th December Christmas Carol Service 2:15pm
- 19th Celebration Assembly 9am

2026

- 9th January Reception Open morning 10am - 11am
- 13th February Celebration Assembly 9am



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Middleton Primary School News

ASH

This half term, we launched our Cooking Club — and it's been a great success! The children have enjoyed baking a variety of delicious treats, including apple crumble, blackberry flapjacks, chocolate cake, cupcakes and gingerbread people. Here are a few pictures from our latest session — we think you'll agree, they look good enough to eat!

In class, we enjoyed a geography field walk exploring our local area and shared a wonderful poetry recital with parents during our celebration assembly. In science, we learned all about how to stay healthy, and in English, we wrote instructions on how to make a jam sandwich



SPRUCE

Spruce have had a fantastic half term! We are very proud of the effort they have put into all areas of school life and the progress they've made as a result. It has been great to see many children reading and practising their spellings at home as well as in school.

We have all enjoyed looking at a variety of different sculptures in our art lessons and using a range of materials to create our own examples in the same style, culminating in the children designing and making their own sculpture.

In English, we have enjoyed looking at amazing buildings from across the world which inspired us to design our own incredible structure, which we presented to the class and to parents in our celebration assembly. We also used personification to write our own poems about Autumn for the Harvest assembly in church.

We have been very lucky to welcome Mrs Gleeson from Alde Valley High school to teach us music, where we have had fun finding out about music from different periods of time and having a go at playing instruments, reading music and singing.





Southwold Primary School News

APOLLO

This half term, Apollo Class have been settling back into school life after the summer break. We are really enjoying being rewarded with house points for living out the school rules 'ready, respect, safe'.

Our Year five children had the privilege of taking part in the opening of the history exhibition at The Old Hospital. The pupils chatted with our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, and loved hearing stories about when there was a cottage hospital in Southwold.

Apollo Class absolutely loved their visit to Henham where they found out many facts about crops grown locally and steam engines.

Half of the class are currently having tennis lessons at St. Felix School where they are learning the rules of tennis and enjoying the benefits of being active. The other half of the class will go after half term - I know they can't wait!

The music curriculum is being enriched with our learning with Mrs. Gleeson. Currently, we are learning about medieval music. Daisy is running our choir sessions where we are practising our Harvest song





Southwold Primary School News

MERCURY

Mercury Class have been very busy in all areas of their learning! In English, the children learnt how to write clear instructions by practising with a favourite activity – making a jam sandwich. They really enjoyed following the steps carefully and using key words to guide their writing.

In Geography, the children have loved exploring their local area. They went on a walk around Southwold to spot and talk about its key features, bringing their learning to life through first-hand experience.

In PE, the children have enjoyed experimenting with the tennis rackets. They have been thinking carefully about what skills are needed to use the racket and balls effectively, practising their control, coordination and accuracy.



ASTRONAUTS

Astronauts have been exploring making marks in a variety of ways this term. We are exploring colours and shapes through different medias and also learning to draw animals with step by step instructions.





Yoxford & Peasehall Primary School News

SILVER BIRCH

This term Silver Birch have enjoyed an amazing opportunity to work with Mrs Gleeson, a specialist music teacher from Kingfisher Schools Trust. We have been on a whistle-stop tour of musical history beginning with the middle ages and exploring how music evolved through the Renaissance, baroque and classical eras and beyond. We have used our voices, boom whackers, xylophones and even our bodies as instruments to create choral and orchestral pieces. Hear us singing Summer is a Coming in here Yoxford and Peasehall Primary School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOuXYwR0Sss>

OAK

For our Geography lesson, Oak Class enjoyed a local walk around Yoxford, looking at landmarks and discussing what was man-made or natural. The Donkey Meadow and some of the play area was natural, everything else was man-made.



WILLOW

Willow Class have had a busy few weeks with creating sculptures in Art, cooking on Trangias, learning our poem for Harvest festival and taking a trip back in time for our Educational Visit to Dunwich.

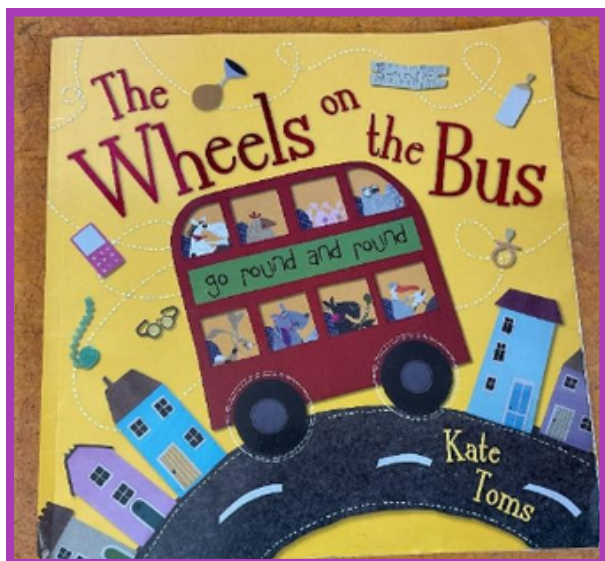
In Dunwich we got to see exhibits in the museum, listen to a talk about the way the town of Dunwich was washed away over time and we got to follow Sister Luke as she took us to Greyfriars and back to the 13th Century.



ELM

This half term we have had fun changing a story in our Talk for Writing lessons. We used the story based on the rhyme 'The Wheels on the Bus'. We started by learning all the words and actions. We drew a picture storyboard together to help us remember the order of the story. The children helped to decide on the pictures to draw. Once this was complete, we started changing the story to make it our own. We decided to call it 'The Wheels on the Fire Engine'. We learnt all about fire engines and came up with a list of things on the fire engine to include in our new version of the rhyme. Together we made a new storyboard, deciding on the pictures and words together and the children are very pleased with their new rhyme and like to sing it in class as our morning wake up song.

The children have learnt lots of new vocabulary from making up this story rhyme.





School Scouting Sessions

The Beavers worked collaboratively to make a roll the dice game with different activities for each number of the dice. They used star jumps, push ups, running on the spot, sit ups and hopping.

The Beavers enjoyed learning about how to make healthy swaps and sugar swaps. They enjoyed making fruit salad and fruit kebabs.



Academic Calendar 2026/27

September 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

PD Days							
1/9/2026 - School directed /statutory training							
2/9/2026 - School directed							
4/1/2027 - School directed							
12/4/2027 - School directed							
28/5/2027 - Wellbeing focus							