



# Yox Valley Newsletter

Autumn Term I - October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome all the children back to school this half term, and especially lovely to welcome the many new families who have joined our community. It has been a pleasure to see everyone settle so quickly into school life and routines. Already, we can see the learning that has taken place and the excellent progress our children are making.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome families into school for our Celebration Assemblies and Harvest events. Thank you for taking the time to join us and be part of these special occasions. Strong partnerships between home and school play a vital role in supporting our children's success.

We hope that you have had the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher over the past few weeks to discuss their progress and celebrate their achievements. If you were unable to attend a consultation meeting or arrange a telephone conversation, please make this a priority after half term. These discussions are invaluable in reviewing progress, addressing any concerns and recognising the many successes our children are achieving both academically and personally.

## Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jeanie Powell back to Yoxford, where she will be supporting our Key Stage 2 children. At the same time, we were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Tilson, who left us at the end of September. We thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success and happiness for the future.

We are pleased to have Mrs Powell rejoin the team and know that she will be a wonderful support to our pupils as the year progresses.

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Trust takes its responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) very seriously. We are committed to ensuring that personal information is collected, used, stored and shared appropriately, securely and in accordance with legal requirements.

All staff complete annual GDPR training as part of our statutory training programme, and each school undergoes a yearly audit by our Data Protection Officer. These measures help ensure that we remain compliant and that parents and carers can be confident that personal data is being managed responsibly.

For new families, or for anyone who would like to refresh their understanding of our policies, all GDPR-related policies and privacy notices can be found on the Trust website. If you have any questions about how we collect, use or store personal data, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



# Yox Valley Newsletter

Summer Term 2 - July 2026

## Attendance Matters

As we return after the half-term break, we know that getting back into routines can sometimes be challenging. The darker mornings, seasonal coughs and colds, and the busy pace of family life can all make attendance that little bit harder. However, being in school every day really does make a difference.

Every school day is carefully planned and full of opportunities for learning, friendship and personal growth. Children who attend regularly are better able to build on previous learning, develop confidence and feel fully connected to school life. We want every child to have the very best chance to thrive, both academically and socially.

As a school, we are required to monitor attendance closely and inform families when attendance falls below national expectations. Some parents may therefore have received a letter from us this half term. Please be reassured that these letters are intended to keep families informed and, where needed, open supportive conversations about how we can work together to improve attendance.

It is equally important that we celebrate success. We are incredibly proud of the many children who come to school every day, ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity. Some pupils may have received a special postcard through the post to recognise their excellent attendance and commitment to learning. We hope these children feel very proud of their achievement.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together and establishing positive routines from the start of each half term, we can ensure that every child is in the best possible position to enjoy school, make progress and achieve their full potential.

## END OF TERM ATTENDANCE

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Southwold            | 92.8% |
| Middleton            | 93.8% |
| Yoxford & Peasenhall | 95.7% |
| National Attendance  | 95.5% |



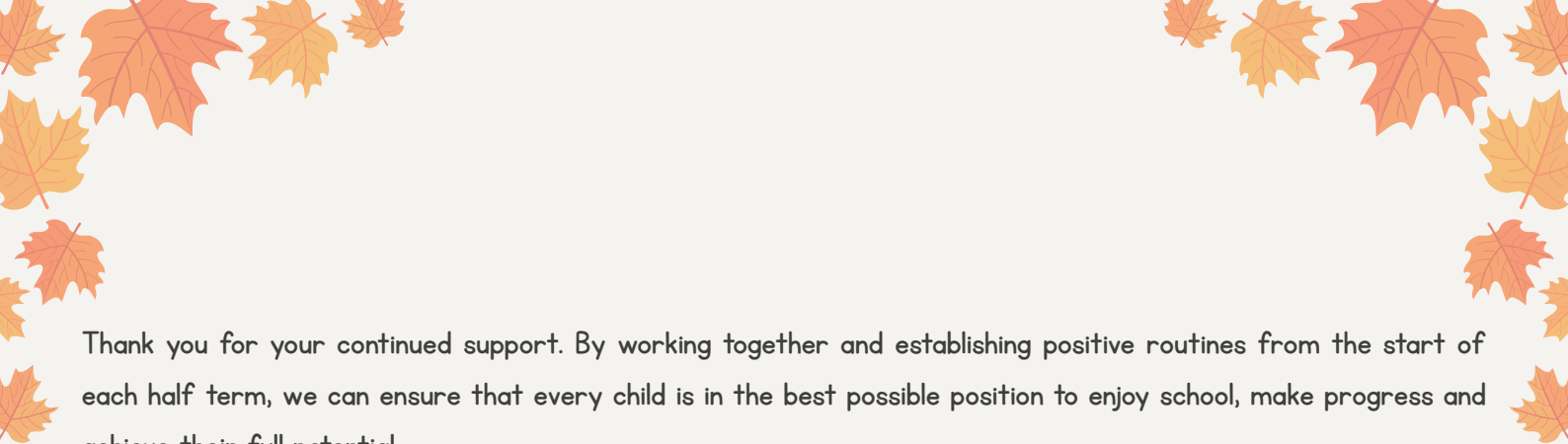
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[www.yoxfordandpeasenhallprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.yoxfordandpeasenhallprimaryschool.org.uk)



Thank you for your continued support. By working together and establishing positive routines from the start of each half term, we can ensure that every child is in the best possible position to enjoy school, make progress and achieve their full potential.

#### 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.

That's all for now.

Thank you for your continued support throughout what has been a busy and successful half term.

We hope you have a wonderful and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on 2nd November for the countdown to all the seasonal excitement and festivities that the remainder of the term brings.

With best wishes,

Katy Last  
Headteacher

# Academic Calendar 2026/27

Last Day of term - 23<sup>RD</sup> October

Back to school - 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Half term - 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October

| 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                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



# Middleton Primary School News

## ASH

For Space Week, the children proudly created their own rockets at home. In EYFS, we have been developing our fine motor skills through a range of fun activities, including a game of 'Beat the Teacher' by turning over counters and playing Jenga. The children have also enjoyed snuggling up with a good book in our lovely new circus tent and designing conker shells with natural resources and plasticine.

Last but not least, they have drawn their own monsters for a Class display based on the Colour Monster.





# Middleton Primary School News

## SPRUCE

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in Spruce class. During Space Week, we explored the wonders of space and enjoyed getting creative by making our very own Eggonauts. We carefully designed and built protective capsules to keep our egg astronauts safe, thinking about how real astronauts need to be protected when travelling into space.

We have also enjoyed our learning about World War II. We discovered what life was like during the Blitz, explored the experiences of children who were evacuated from their homes and imagined what it must have felt like to leave their families and move somewhere unfamiliar. We also learnt about rationing and how families had to make the most of the ingredients available to them.

To bring our learning to life, we rolled up our sleeves and tried out some wartime cooking! We made a traditional bread and butter pudding and an eggless chocolate cake, using recipes inspired by those from World War II. This gave us a practical insight into how people adapted their cooking during a time when food was limited and ingredients were rationed.

We have loved bringing our learning to life through practical activities, creativity and hands-on experiences.



## ELM

We have had a very busy half term!

The children have worked hard on learning their first set of phonic sounds and are already reading and spelling simple words.



In Talk 4 Writing, we learnt the song Old MacDonald Had a Farm and found out lots of new facts about the different farm animals. We have been curious and asking questions. We then had great fun changing the song to Auntie Sarah had an Aquarium and the children chose a range of sea life creatures to put into the song.



In maths, we have had great fun making a range of repeating patterns from sound and movement patterns to ab, abb and abc patterns. The children have also created their own patterns using a range of items.



We have looked at the story of The Colour Monster and discussed our different emotions. We came up with different situations that made us feel happy, sad, scared and angry.

We have had lots of visitors in to see us this half term. They all help us in the community and came in to tell us about their jobs. We had a nurse that showed us how to put on bandages and a farmer that came in with his tractor. In Squirrels, they had even more people visit including the headteacher and a dentist as they have been working towards their Local Superhero badge.



During Space week, we learnt all about the moon. We found out about craters and carried out our own crater experiment! We worked together to make a papier mache moon and made our own moons using foil to make the pattern. The children were very excited to find out how astronauts carried out simple tasks in Space such as making food and brushing their teeth.

## OAK

Oak class have had a busy half term so far. They have experienced visiting Norwich castle, learning what it was used for and spotting some key areas, such as the battlements, the arrow slits, the grand hall and enjoyed listening to Jack the rat catcher.



We had fun learning about Norway, for our European Day, colouring flags, drawing pictures and learning about the foods they would eat.



During Space week, Oak class loved learning about space, building rockets, colouring and drawing space pictures and making a rocket collage.



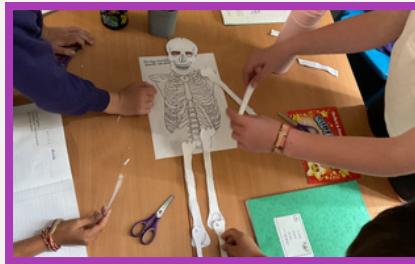
## WILLOW

Where did the summer go?

Willow Class have been so busy that we hadn't realised how fast time has been flying! In maths we have learned about telling the time (using analogue clocks was a bit tricky), 2D and 3D shapes, lines of symmetry and we just have a little bit of statistics left to go.

In English we have been writing explanations about Saxon Houses and then we will finish by re-writing part of 'Anglo-Saxon Boy' the book we have been reading in class.

Last week we were lucky enough (along with the rest of the school!) to work on the 'Some rainbows are circles' art project and we have also had the exciting task of working with the WildEd project.



## SILVER BIRCH

It has been a very busy half term in Silver Birch class. Highlights have been art lessons where we are exploring different street artists, such as the mosaic character work of Invader and the positive messages and mixed media art of Wordsmith. We are developing our printing and stencilling techniques.

Additionally, in PE we have practised the netball throwing and catching techniques of chest and shoulder passes. We have also learnt how to pivot.

This week, we enjoyed a whole-class mini game where we added the dynamic of attackers and defenders. We also enjoyed seeing a wide range of robots as part of our space week.





## School Scouting Sessions at Yoxford & Peasonhall Primary School

In Squirrels we have been working towards our first badge 'Local Superhero'.

We have enjoyed some visits from Mrs Last, Reverend Tim and Chris Kelly (Dentist) where we have learnt about how they are local superheroes and help lots of people in our community.

We thought about how we could be local superheroes as well. We noticed that the front of the school needed a clean up and the posters needed replacing. Elm class helped sweep up the fallen apples, brush away the cobwebs from the picture frames and even drew some local superheroes to be added to a couple of the frames.



The beavers have had a great start to the term with an important part of scouts, being invested into the scouting family.



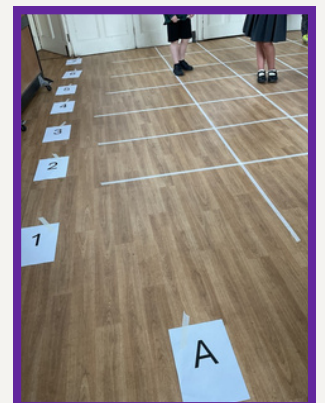
The beavers have been working towards their Navigator badge, they loved the fun way to learn about the cardinal points of a compass. Never Eat Shredded Wheat. North East South West.

They used this knowledge to direct each other around a grid to retrieve the cone.

The beavers loved this badge and have also enjoyed making maps of the school and looking at different maps and how they can help us.



Cubs have been working on our navigator badge - we have been learning about coordinates, reading maps and compasses and making our own maps.





# Southwold Primary School News

## ASTRONAUTS

Our Astronauts have been exploring colour mixing and are now confidently using these skills independently in their learning. There have been lots of wonderful discussions, investigations, and experiments as the children discover how colours can be created and changed



## MERCURY

Mercury Class has had a busy and exciting term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing imaginative stories about dragons and creating clear instructions to help their dragons find their way home. They have also strengthened their understanding of place value, confidently working with numbers up to 20. They had a wonderful trip to Norwich Castle. The visit gave the children an engaging insight into the castle's history and the various roles of the people who lived there. They especially loved the hands-on activities, which offered a fun and interactive way to explore life in the past. It was both an enjoyable and educational experience for all.





# Southwold Primary School News

## JUPITER

Jupiter Class have had a very busy and exciting term! We have been taking part in the Wilder Schools Project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. As part of this project, the children have enjoyed a range of outdoor learning activities, developing their knowledge and understanding of local wildlife and the natural environment.

A highlight of the term was our visit to Carlton Marshes, where the children explored the wetland habitat, discovered the plants and animals that live there, and took part in some fantastic hands-on learning experiences.

In Maths, we have been working hard on column addition and subtraction, developing our calculation skills and building confidence. In English, the children have been busy writing some super stories inspired by *The Lord of the Forest* by Caroline Pitcher, using their imaginations to create some wonderful pieces of writing.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our science learning about the human body, exploring how our bodies work through fun songs and creative art activities.

It has been a wonderful term filled with exciting learning opportunities, creativity and outdoor adventures.





# Southwold Primary School News

## MARS

This half term, the leaders and ambassadors from Mars Class have been busy carrying out their duties. Our House Captains help with weekly house points; our Reading Ambassador has been sharing stories with early years and our Digital Leader ensures the laptops are kept tidy and charged. Congratulations to our Head Pupils who are modelling the three school rules to their peers.

In English, we have been sharing a beautiful text 'Mirror' showing the lives of two boys in Australia and Morocco. We are working hard with all our writing skills to be able to showcase them in our final draft.

In Maths, we have worked on place value and addition and subtraction; including using the inverse to check our answers. The Times Table Rock Star Day inspired us to understand the importance of practising our times tables. Mars Class love checking their weekly heat maps to see where they have 'gone green'.

Science, Year 5 and 6 have been exploring the human skeleton and discovering how our bones support our bodies, protect our vital organs and help us move. We got creative by using cotton buds to design and build our own skeletons, carefully arranging the bones to create a model of the human skeletal system. This hands-on activity helped us develop our understanding of the different bones in the body and how they fit together. We then took our learning one step further by designing and making our very own bionic hands! Using our creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork, we explored how hands work and how simple mechanisms can help fingers move. We tested our designs and thought carefully about how to improve them. We have had a fantastic time combining science, creativity and engineering, learning how our amazing bodies work while developing our skills as young scientists and designers!

The music curriculum continues to be enriched by Daisy, who is running our weekly choir sessions. The children prepared for the Harvest Celebration by writing prayers and reciting a poem. The weekly mixed netball sessions at St. Felix support us becoming a good team player, knowing the rules of the game and keeping mentally and physically fit. Congratulations to Mars Class for a very successful first half term!

