



The Saints Federation

Fortnightly Newsletter

10th March 2023

At the beginning of the year, the Federation launched their new vision: Shine as Lights in the World (Philippians 2:15): God values everyone within our community. The values of respect, kindness and encouragement are at the heart of all we do; seeking to help others to know the radiance of goodness and light; and aiming to unlock everyone's potential so that they can shine as lights in our wonderful world

All Saints

The Honeybees have enjoyed their new book '*Between Tick and Tock*' where they have been experimenting with using dialogue in their reading and their writing. They have made tick and tock clocks in maths, alongside working at the four number operations. They have been learning about the Easter story in RE and have been exploring famous buildings including the Taj Mahal. In geography, they have been making their own maps and used keys.

Just after half term, Dolphins thoroughly enjoyed the Federation trip to Gressenhall as part of their learning about World War II. It really helped pupils imagine the past and brought our history topic to life – they came in some amazing costumes and some even had authentic WWII packed lunches! One of the most interesting experiences was hearing and seeing a real life air raid siren, and evacuating into an Anderson Shelter. Pupils also loved being trained to be in the home guard.

The Pandas and Dolphins have been working together this week and have thrived on making new friends. Some of the Dolphin class have shown themselves to be real 'lights in the world' inspiring younger students in their writing skills. Pandas and Dolphins have both been writing a balanced argument text, exploring the pros and cons of zoos in contemporary society. They have produced some beautiful artwork to accompany their writing, featuring some very interesting animals; and used the laptops for research into the work of zoos, locally and globally.

In RE, Dolphins and Pandas have been learning about the Easter story as part of our big question "Why is the resurrection important to Christians?". In collective worship, the whole school have enjoyed learning and reflecting about lent, which began with whole school pancake racing.

St Andrew's

Discovery class have enjoyed starting to read their new story 'Between Tick and Tock' and wrote some lovely poems. They have been 'ticking and tocking' in mathematics, improving their understanding of how to tell the time. They have been looking at the local area in increasing detail and have been creating their own maps. They have also enjoyed sculpting and shaping by designing and making a salt dough tile. Victory class have also begun a new story book: Michael Morpurgo's '*The Dancing Bear*'. They have met the three main characters: grandpa, Roxanne and Bruno the bear, writing a letter in role as Roxanne and trying to persuade grandpa to let her keep the bear that has befriended her. In mathematics, they have been deepening their understanding of what multiplication is, using manipulatives and diagrams alongside written methods. In science, they are learning about nutrition and the importance of keeping a balanced diet. In geography, they are learning about the layers of the earth before expanding their knowledge of how volcanoes are formed and erupt.

Endeavour class have been on an exciting trip to Gressenhall Rural Life Museum with the other older classes in the federation. They went dressed as evacuees and were involved in lots of activities to learn more about life in England during WWII. Meanwhile, in mathematics, they have been learning to use different data handling techniques, including pie charts and line graphs.

Hapton

In Owls we have completed our WW2 novel 'When the Sky Falls' which explores the complexities and emotions of daily life, through the eyes of a child. We are looking forward to furthering our understanding as we read 'Our Secret War Diary'. Earlier this term, we explored the war during our amazing Federation trip to Gressenhall. Our immersive activities included a visit to the local shop for rations, making potato-based chocolate truffles, an air raid experience, land army work and an opportunity to look at artefacts from the time. Our favourite activity was the home guard experience where we learnt to use our bayonets. As we approach Easter we have been reflecting on the importance of Lent and the resurrection.

In Robins, we have designed and made our own city map to go on display in our classroom. We will be holding a mini election to decide on a name for our city. In maths, we have been learning how to tell the time and coincidentally, our new class story, in English, is called *Between Tick and Tock!* We have also been thinking about the importance of a healthy diet and exercise. In RE we have been exploring the importance of Lent where we have discussed giving up food and treats, but we also considered things you may take up during Lent, which might make a difference; such as helping others, both at home and school.

Attendance Matters!

	Number of pupils with 100% attendance	Whole school attendance
Hapton	14	93.8
All Saints	23	94.87
St Andrew's	21	95.55
Whole Federation		94.74

Keeping Children Safe at Pick Up and Drop Off

A gentle reminder that when children are dropped off and collected at school, our car park areas remain busy with traffic. In the mornings it can be tempting to stop and drop, but on these occasions the children are so focussed on getting into school they forget their road safety. Children should be escorted to the school gate on foot, by a parent or carer and remain under the care of parents and carers until they are safely inside the gate with their class teacher. Please also use the paths provided which run alongside our parking areas. We have observed several pupils running through the car park unattended. At the end of the school day, please remind your child to walk with you to your car or along the path to ensure that they do not cross the path of an oncoming vehicle.

If you have siblings with you, please do not leave them unattended in the car while you drop off. A few years ago, we had a car stolen from school which had the keys left in it and there could so easily have been a small child in the back seat.

Staffing Update

We have had a number of staffing changes this term.

Hapton

Mr Matt Baker and Mrs Sexton are teaching Owls Class following Mr Doherty's move to a new school.

After many years at Hapton, we wish Dr Heather Parr all the best as she leaves the Federation – we will miss you and thank you for everything you've done for our children and the community.

All Saints

Unfortunately, we have had a significant amount of staff absence at All Saints, including the staff drafted in to cover for absent colleagues!

St Andrew's

We welcome Mrs Alison Durling to Discovery Class. She works Monday-Wednesday.

We wish Mrs Olga Coleman all the best as she moves into a new role outside the education sector.

Please be kind to us!

We continue to experience significant staff absence across the federation. We know this can be unsettling and thank you for all of your support as we keep going for the benefit of all children: please be kind to us as those of us left standing are battling hard to cover all absence, including when the supply staff covering for the supply staff are unable to come in as expected!

All Saints

We have been made aware of a continued campaign to cause unrest among parents at All Saints. This has focused on frightening parents into believing the school is at risk of imminent closure. **This is a false rumour.** At present, there is no intention to close All Saints and the IEB are working to ensure its long term future.

Thank you to all parents who continue to support the school by not perpetuating the rumour. We encourage you to talk to Mrs Shaw if you feel in any way worried about this. Mrs Swann was very clear in her letter to parents in July that it is the parental choice of withdrawing a child that will ultimately affect the school budget and its future; however, we are funded by a federated budget where we pool all resources and this helps protect the future of all our schools to remain part of the village community.

Primary Assessment Information for Parents

KS1-Year 2

Your child's teacher is responsible for judging the standards your child is working at in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science, by the end of key stage 1. To help inform those judgements, pupils sit national curriculum tests in English and mathematics, commonly called SATs. They may also sit an optional test in English grammar, punctuation and spelling. The tests are a tool for teachers to help them measure your child's performance and identify their needs as they move into key stage 2. They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards. The tests can be taken any time during May and they are not strictly timed. Pupils may not even know they are taking them as many teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom activities.

KS2- Year 6

If you have a child in year 6, at the end of key stage 2, they will take national curriculum tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and mathematics. The tests help measure the progress pupils have made and identify if they need additional support in a certain area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance and to produce national performance data. The key stage 2 tests will be taken during the week commencing Tuesday 9th May. Tests are taken on nationally set dates, unless your child is absent, in which case they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards. Some pupils are eligible for adjustments which may include; additional time, a reader or a scribe. If your child qualifies for any of these adjustments, you will be notified by the class teacher. Children are given plenty of opportunities to practise for these tests and will be very familiar with the test papers and format, prior to the actual tests.

Date	TEST
Tuesday 9 th May 2023	English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
Wednesday 10 th May 2023	English Reading
Thursday 11 th May 2023	Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
Friday 12 th May 2023	Mathematics Paper 3 (reasoning)

Year 4 Times Tables Tests

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils registered at state-funded maintained schools. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. Schools must administer the MTC to all eligible year 4 pupils between Monday 5 June and Friday 16 June 2023.

Phonics Screening

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps the school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils in the country. It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in the phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. Children will be familiar with the test, which is performed by a member of school staff.

Phonics Screening takes place within the week commencing 12th June 2023.

If you have any questions in relation to assessment, please feel free to contact your class teacher for information.

Absence

During KS2 SATS week we will not be authorising any absence for those pupils due to take part in these statutory tests.

Diary Dates - Federation and School Specific

Save the Date - Federation

20 th February	Start of term 4
23 rd February	6pm Parent and stakeholder Consultation Meeting – venue All Saints
31 st March	Last day of T4
Term 5	
18 th April	First day of Term 5 for pupils and staff
1 st May	Bank Holiday – school closed
8 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
9 th May – 12 th May	KS2 SATS week
22 nd – 24 th May	Sports Days across the Federation
26 th May	Last day of T5
5 th June	Term 6 starts for pupils and staff

Save the Date – All Saints

Term 4	
20 th February	School reopens to pupils and staff for Term 4
10 th March	Reading & Phonics Cafes – postponed due to staffing absence
14 th March	KS2 Latin Performance
31 st March	Easter Celebration 1:30pm
31 st March	Last Day of Spring Term
Term 5	
18 th April	School Opens to Pupils for the Summer Term
22 nd May	Sports Day (am)
26 th May	Last Day of Term 5

Save the Date - Hapton

Term 4	
20 th February	School reopens to pupils and staff for Term 4
31 st March	9:15am Easter Service at church
31 st March	Last Day of Spring Term
Term 5	
18 th April	School Opens to Staff and Pupils for the Summer Term
23 rd May	Sports Day (morning)
26 th May	Last Day of Term 5

Save the Date – St Andrew's

Term 4	
20 th February	School reopens to pupils and staff for Term 4
30 th March	(2:30pm) Easter Service at church
31 st March	Last Day of Spring Term
Term 5	
18 th April	School Opens to Pupils and Staff for the Summer Term
24 th May	Sports Day (morning)
25 th May (2:30pm)	Church Service at St Nicholas church, North Lopham
26 th May	Last Day of Term 5