

Half Term ending Friday 16th February 2024

Deputy's Message

We have had a busy half term again. We know there has been a lot of change with staff but the children have coped amazingly well and I am particularly proud of how adaptable everyone has been.

All 3 classes have started new core stories and enjoyed lots of learning centred particularly around geography—Owls thinking about their place in the world, Kestrels learning about the Amazon Rainforest and the tropics and Eagles following the journey of Ernest Shackleton. I have seen some fantastic examples of writing and have been amazed at the progress in reading that has been evident this term. As I walk around the school it is a delight to see engaged children and lots of learning taking place. We also enjoyed sharing learning time with you for our learning cafes, exploring sound, Chinese New Year and Shackleton's ship, the Endurance.

We have some exciting events coming up in our next (very short) half term which you may have already heard snippets of from your children. Back in December we applied to the Learn about Livestock programme for the opportunity to host a ewe and her lamb/s in the Spring. We were successful and will take delivery of our sheep on 4th March. They will stay on the school site for a week and the children will be taking care of them and learning more about caring for livestock. All children will need to have wellies and warm/waterproof coat every day that week. We will be providing an opportunity for you to come and meet the sheep too during the week—we hope to do this during parent reader/family Friday times but we are awaiting the exact arrival and collection times before we can confirm this for definite. I am really grateful for the support that Izzie Orr is giving us with this project and she will be helping me to oversee the care of our sheep during that week.

We will have our annual World Book Day celebrations which will involve a visit from the Bookbugs and Dragon Tales bookshop again. Details of our activities will follow the first week back.

We also have **parents evenings in the week of 4th March**—see the dates section for details. This will be an opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher about their progress and next steps at the half way point through the academic year—we have a lot to celebrate with you. Sign up for slots will be open from the start of the school day on 26th February, if you can't get into the office please call or email Mrs Bartholomew and she will find you a

slot.



Email: office@aslacton.org Phone: 01379 677345





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Information

Family Friday for the Spring Term - 9am unless otherwise stated

1st Mar: Owl

8th Mar: Eagle

15th Mar: Kestrel

School Day

Our attendance this half term has been pretty much in line with the national attendance target which is amazing. Well done everyone

We have noticed that we are starting to get a few later arrivals in the morning (arriving nearer to 9am than 8.45). Registers close at 9am and arrivals after this are counted as late. We know sometimes this is unavoidable—if you know you are going to be late please leave a message at the office, especially if your child would like a lunch as after 9.15am we can not add any more lunch orders.

We have also noticed an increase in personal items being brought into school. No toys should be in school and only a basic pencil case for Kestrel and Eagle. Thank you.

Parent Readers for the Spring term:

Owl: Fridays at 2.50pm

Kestrel: Thursdays at 9am

Eagle: Monday morning 9am

Clubs

Clubs continue after half term. There will be no clubs on Tuesday 5th or Thursday 7th March.

Friends

A big thank you to the Friends for arranging the Valentines Disco—much fun was had by all. Thank you for organising the cake sale and to Kestrel parents for baking. A total raised will be shared after half term.

A huge thank you to Mrs Nunn who has been the treasurer for the Friends for many years but who has now stepped back from the role. We welcome Mrs Brett who has taken on the role.

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Save the date!

February	
Monday 19th—Friday 123rd February	Half Term
Monday 26th February	Kestrel swimming at Wymondham starts—bring costumes in bags to change at lunch as we swim in the afternoon session.
March	
Friday 1st March	Non uniform in exchange for an Easter themed gift/egg/craft for the Friends Easter Hamper Raffle
Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th March	Parent Consultation week—sign up will be available on Monday 26th February at the office in person or by email. Tuesday 5th 3.30-5.30pm Thursday 7th 3.30-5.30pm
Week beginning 4th—8th March	Sheep week—see Deputy's message for details. Wellies must be in school every day this week.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day –details to follow.
Wednesday 13th March	Y6 parents meeting re Y6 SATs. 9am in the hall
Tuesday 19th March	Kestrel Forest Schools Day—waterproofs and wellies will be needed. Old trousers are advised especially if the weather is wet.
Friday 22nd March	Eagle Forest Schools Day—waterproofs and wellies will be needed. Old trousers are advised especially if the weather is wet.
Tuesday 26th March	Owl Forest Schools Day—waterproofs and wellies will be needed. Old trousers are advised especially if the weather is wet.
Wednesday 27th March	Church service for staff and pupils Break up for Easter Holidays
VERY ADVANCED NOTICE!	
Proposed date of Tuesday 9th July	This is the most likely date at present for our sports day this year—please note that it is a Tuesday not the usual Monday. We will confirm the date after Easter. We expect to follow the usual pattern of a morning of carousel sports, family picnic and afternoon races to which you are invited to attend all or part of the day.

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Attendance

There is room for improvement to be made with pupil attendance at school. It is a legal requirement that your child attends school everyday unless they are genuinely unwell. IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, YOU MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL ON EACH DAY OF ABSENCE before 9.00am. In most cases there are very simple explanations for absence, but if you do not tell us, your child's absence has to be recorded as unauthorised.

Our attendance:

Attendance target: 96%

This half term's attendance: 95.6%

Class with the best attendance: Owl with 98%

Late (after registers close at 9am) pupils this half term: 0

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