November 2026

NEWSLETTER

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School Calendars

The 27-28 school calendar is now available on the website/email. Whilst the consultation indicated that there is a preference for a two-week October break, the EMAT Board of Trustees felt more time was needed to consider how to make up this time and therefore, have postponed any changes until October 2028. A formal letter from the trust will be issued this week. Please speak with me directly if there is a concern around booked holidays.

Non-uniform / Open-mindedness Day

Our recent Mental Health Day appears to have caused some confusion amongst both staff and families and so I would just like to draw people's attention to the Uniform Policy that outlines the two types of change of uniform we have. Complete **non-uniform** days: Open-Mindedness (Nov), Heritage Day (Feb), World Book Day (Mar) and TT Rock Festival (July) and **awareness** where only one item of uniform e.g. jumper, hair, face-paint is changed to raise that awareness: Mental Health Week, Christmas Jumper Day, Comic Relief, Anti-bullying.

Therefore, the next full non-uniform event will be Open-Mindedness Day on Friday 13th November, a day in which we encourage the children to dress up in the most unusual way possible and then try to be open-minded towards this. As a key school value, we aim to teach the children to accept that things can be different – Mr Grimsby can wear a skirt – and whilst this may make them feel funny inside as it is not the norm, we have to still show respect and act positively towards them. We hold this day annually and is one of the most fun ways in which we teach our school values. The day also coincides with Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need. Therefore, we would ask for a voluntary donation of £1 in order to support this charitable event.

Inter-school Sporting Competitions

An ongoing challenge at the moment is the involvement in interschool competitions. Over the last decade or so, a dedicated fund called Sport's Premium has enabled the school to participate widely in those within the local area. This year the government has cut around £10,000 of this from school budgets and re-allocated this to local sport partnerships who help organize these events. Whilst this may lead to well-organized competitions, schools are increasingly unable to afford the transport to get to these events; moreover, there are complications around asking parents to support in this due to safeguarding regulations which we are currently trying to navigate.

This is why we were unable to attend the West Norfolk Cross-Country Finals this month and why Only 9 out of a possible 48 school teams attended the Boys/Girls West Norfolk Football Finals, held at the school over the last two weeks. As winners, we are currently trying to find creative ways to get our children to the final in Norwich next month as I cannot justify the £30 per pupil that it would cost to get the team there on a coach. Therefore, we do intend to continue to find ways to provide these fantastic opportunities, but we will have to find ways to do so within the budgets available.

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Snack Money

Increasingly, we are dealing with pupils buying other pupils snacks from the kitchen using change that they have left over. Whilst we have spoken to the pupils, this is hard to police and therefore, please could we ask for families to consider the amount they are sending in with their child as well as discussing this with their child.

Key Reminders

We have now switched over to two new systems that will affect your children:

Swift Kitchen – our catering company has switched to this new meal ordering system instead of Select. All but 28 families have registered, potentially because home lunches are preferred; however, this may be an issue if you ever wish to order a special lunch such as Christmas Dinner in the future. Please speak with the office if there is a concern.

Collection from Key Stage 1 (Reception will not change this year) – we are switching to a new online form, sent out earlier this month. At present, 90% of our families have completed this with updated collection details. For the remaining 10%, please note the staff will only release to legal parents unless you update your details through the office.

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER			
2nd	Monday		Children return to school
3rd	Tuesday		Pine class - Additional PE
4th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Maple class starts swimming lessons (7 weeks)
10th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Cedar class - Additional PE
10th	Tuesday	9:00 - 15:00	Y3/4 Pensthorpe Visit
13th	Friday		Children in Need Day: Open-Mindedness Day
16th - 20th	Monday - Friday		National Anti Bullying Week
16th	Monday		Odd Socks Day
17th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Fir Class - Additional PE
19th	Thursday	18:30	PTA Christmas Bingo
20th	Friday		KS2 CPR Training
23rd	Monday	13:00 - 14:45	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Event - Selected pupils
24th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Acorns class - Additional PE
30th	Monday	13:45	School Choir to visit Wyndham House
DECEMBER			
1st	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Conkers class - Additional PE
3rd	Thursday	13:30 - 15:30	Y5/6 Boys West Norfolk Cup Final - The Nest, Norwich
4th	Friday	15:30 - 17:00	PTA Christmas Fair
7th	Monday		KS2 Project Morning
9th	Wednesday	18:00	School Choir - Carol Service at All Saints Church, Hillington Square
14th	Monday	9:00 - 12:00	Wizard of Oz - Christmas Pantomime
14th	Monday	19:00 - 20:00	Year 6 Carol Service - All Saint's Church, North Wootton
15th	Tuesday		EYFS Christmas Open Morning - Booking essential
16th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Maple class last swimming lesson
16th	Wednesday		Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
17th	Thursday	9:30 - 10:30 13:30 - 14:30	EYFS Christmas Concert - Booking Essential
17th	Thursday	18:00 - 20:15	PTA Christmas Disco - KS1 18:00-19:00 KS2 19:15-20:15
18th	Friday		Last day of term