



Norfolk House School

# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN HALF TERM 2016



21st October 2016

Dear Parents,

As we sang our Harvest hymn 'Autumn Days' in assembly last Friday, it seems surprising that already we are preparing so soon for the half-term break after a vibrant and enjoyable first few weeks of the new academic year.

I hope that you have found the earlier date for Parents' Evenings meetings to be valuable and informative and we look forward to working with the pupils in Year 1 upwards towards achieving the targets set on their recently-issued Target Cards.

This morning in our Awards Assembly, we announced our new School Council representatives for the new academic year. It was a joy to listen to the excitement, gasps and smiles as names were shared with the school.

In the meantime, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a thoroughly relaxing, entertaining and enjoyable half-term break.

Mrs Sarah Morris  
Headmistress

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### Curriculum Themed Week

7th—11th November 2016



This year, for the week beginning 7th November, our Curriculum Themed Week will focus upon History as its centrepiece. During the week, pupils will enjoy a range of themed lessons and activities to enrich and broaden their learning base, whilst still practising key skills in English and mathematics on a daily basis.

More information will follow after half-term.

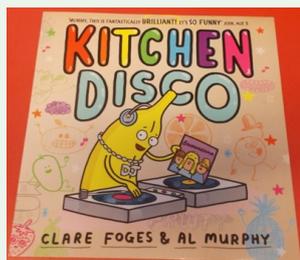
For Years 4,5 & 6 a specially themed Ancient Greek Day will run on the 9th November. Please see the letter from Mrs Platts about this for more information.

## 'Time to Read' by the BookTrust Charity

The Reception class are very excited to have received their BookTrust delivery!

Each year the independent Booktrust charity provides each child in the Reception class with a 'Time to Read' pack containing a colourful reading book, fun activities and information to help support reading at school and at home. The charity works to transform lives through inspiring a love of reading.

At Norfolk House School we believe that being able to read is one of the most important skills children will learn during their early schooling having far-reaching implications for lifelong confidence and well-being. We are so passionate about reading that I took part in the research about this reading project undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research through Queen's University, Belfast. The findings confirmed that the programme is respected and valued in schools and has a very positive impact on children's enjoyment of shared reading at home.



This year's book title is *Kitchen Disco* published by Faber & Faber.

*Kitchen Disco* written in rhyme by Clare Foges and illustrated by Al Murphy is a bright and colourful storybook about some fruit characters who, full of fun and rhythm, jump out of the fruit bowl when the family are sleeping. The banana is the DJ and, playing the latest hits from *Bananarama*, a selection of fruit dance and conga the night away in the kitchen until dawn breaks.

Parents and teachers can use this book to help children in their own reading which is also intended to inspire children to discover new books and extend their reading choices. Funny books like *Kitchen Disco* are fantastic for sharing together - your books don't always have to be calming bedtime reads. Sharing jokes or laughing at funny pictures and expressions in a story is a great way of bonding with your child.



We have enjoyed reading the book at school empowering the children through reading and writing and as they are sent home we hope that parents will agree that 'Time to Read' is a wonderful opportunity to engage in reading with their children. You can also sing along and enjoy the *Kitchen Disco* song if you visit [kitchendiscobook.com](http://kitchendiscobook.com)

Remember, at Norfolk House School we are ensuring that children progress confidently from **learning to read to reading to learn.**

Reporter: Mrs. R. Hifle



At our Awards Assembly each half-term, we look to celebrate the successes of those pupils who have impressed their teachers in each year group from Reception upwards. May

I offer my thanks and congratulations to the following pupils for their valuable contributions to the school :-

Reception	Arjun Bhogal
Year 1	Amar Dhillon
Year 2	Tara Afshar
Year 3	Isabel McIntosh
Year 4	Jai Dhillon
Year 5	Megan Humphries
Year 6	Omeir Shaheed

## Open Morning

At the end of our Curriculum Themed Week, we will be holding an Open Morning on **Saturday 12th November 2016** between 10.00am–1.00pm. This year, we will be opening up a variety of workshops run by the Norfolk House teaching staff to pupils in Years 3 to 5 with drinks and snacks offered during the morning. We hope that many pupils will be able to join us for some exciting activities which are aimed at complementing and extending school-based learning. In addition, we look forward to our pupils in Year 6 attending this important event to act as guides and key ambassadors for visiting families. Letters were issued yesterday so we look forward to receiving your replies.

## Dinosaur Roar!



The children in Transition class were very excited to find large footprints and an egg in the classroom a few weeks ago! We talked about what we thought might be inside the egg. The children had lots of wonderful ideas, and talked to a partner about what they thought might be inside. Some children thought it might be a chicken, because chickens come from eggs. Others felt that it couldn't be a chicken because the footprints were far too big! Lots of the boys thought it might be 'a big scary dinosaur!'



We watched a video clip about palaeontologists and decided that the egg must be a fossil. The children took turns to 'excavate' the egg using special tools. They were very excited to find a dinosaur skeleton inside!

Since that day we have been enjoying lots of dinosaur themed activities. The children have made pasta 'dinosaur skeletons' and even created their own salt dough 'fossils'. We searched for our fossils in the sand using paintbrushes and magnifying glasses, just like the palaeontologists. We have shared lots of dinosaur themed stories including 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' and 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs'.



We have also written a letter to the Natural History Museum to find out some more information about dinosaurs. The children had lots of questions to ask the people who worked there. The children were very excited to receive a reply from the Museum as well as a 3D dinosaur poster! We found out that the stegosaurus skeleton at the museum is called 'Sophie'.

**Reporter:** Miss Stanton



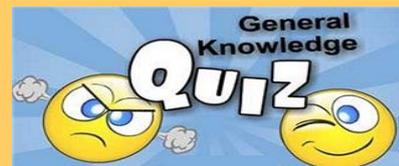
### Assembly Focus—Reading

During a recent assembly, I was able to share with the pupils the story of a young boy who disliked reading, but how one book, suggested by a friend, had made a real impact upon his life and he had never turned back from the joy of reading. We then proceeded to share our thoughts about favourite titles and the older pupils were invited to tell the school if there had been one book or a series of books which had first triggered their interest in reading. It was an absolute pleasure to hear their responses; from Gangsta Granny to the Harry Potter series and Narnia to the novels of Michael Morpurgo. They were bursting to share their answers and their enthusiasm and eager participation were wonderful to behold! We invite them to let their teachers know if there are any new titles they would like to see in our School Library, fiction or non-fiction, by way of recommendations to other pupils.



Thank you!

**Mrs Morris**



Our annual House General Knowledge Quiz will be taking place on **Monday 31st October 2016**. We look forward to notifying you of the winners in due course.

### Nasal Flu Immunisation

The team will be visiting Norfolk House School on the 2nd November 2016 and rolling the programme out to those who have signed up to it in Years 1-3.

We were delighted to receive so many donations of food items last Friday and thank all our families for their kind gifts. Pupils came into the school hall, often struggling under the weight of bags full to the brim with tins of beans, pasta and biscuits and all seemed very proud to be contributing to the donation for the Trussell Trust Food Bank. Earlier, Reverend Tomlinson had led a whole school assembly to discuss the types of foods we had collected, gave out information about the food bank and asked the pupils where bread comes from and how it was first created to become the popular food staple it is today. Year 5 pupils helped organising the donations into the van and the Trussell Trust were extremely grateful for your support.



Thank you once again!



For our first coffee morning in aid of Macmillan, we were very fortunate to have the support of Mrs Sekhon, Mrs Rakar, Ms Ng, Mrs Chand and Ms Van der Lely to welcome parents into the hall as well as to run the after school cake sale. Donations of cakes, muffins and biscuits had been most generous and we are very grateful to those parents who were able to join us for the coffee morning as well as those making a donation for such a worthy cause, raising £297.00 for the Macmillan Trust. Next year, we plan to expand the event further still, so look out for information on that later in the academic year.



# SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council is a vital part of school life at Norfolk House School and provides a vehicle for pupils to have a voice in their school and contribute their ideas for the benefit of all.

Over the past two weeks, pupils have taken part in elections to recruit our new School Council for 2016-2017. Following speeches shared by the pupils in their classes and voted upon, Miss Huckerby is looking forward to working with the new team of councillors on some exciting new projects.



Year 1	Beant Jhutti & Jaiden Dhillon
Year 2	Yandy Chen & Adarsh Deepak
Year 3	Jayden Sandhu & Thierry Cooke-Fleming
Year 4	Lois Morgan & Oscar Fisher
Year 5	Aisha Afroz & Yousif Elashry
Year 6	Gurjeevan Padam & Simran Sivia

**Congratulations to our new School Council and thank you to Miss Huckerby for leading and guiding the pupils.**



# Music exam successes



## GRADE 1—GUITAR—DISTINCTION

Elizabeth Shpectorov—Year 6

## GRADE 1—GUITAR—MERIT

George William—Year 6



## PARKING

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Nursery car park is for the use of Nursery parents only to ease collection and is in constant use throughout the day. Please do not use the Nursery car park when collecting children from the school or dropping off in the mornings, and avoid blocking the entrance. Thank you for your support with this.

## DINOSAURS



The beginning of the year started with a ferocious roar for Year 2 with their Topic of Dinosaurs! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the whole learning experience and have been captivated with their learning. They have enjoyed making dinosaur fossils and with their creative flair, they have made magnificent 3D models of their favourite dinosaurs. It has been a memorable experience for the whole class and they have produced fabulous work.

**Reporter:** Miss Gill

## Staffing Update

- ◇ **Mrs Platts**—I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Platts has been appointed as the permanent Year 4 teacher following an extensive interview programme. She is very excited to be remaining with Year 4 and looking forward to working further with the pupils and using her History expertise for our Curriculum Themed Week after half-term.
- ◇ **Mr Byrom**—As you may be aware, Mr Byrom went on sick leave on the 29th September and will not be re-joining the school. I know that you will join me in wishing him well for the future. The permanent appointment of a specialist mathematics teacher for the higher years has already been made with effect from January 2017 and I look forward to sharing the details of this exciting appointment with you after half-term.

# Key Dates

31.10.16	School Re-Opens after Half Term House General Knowledge Competition (9.15am—10.15am)
02.11.16	European Hand Drawn Portraits (Transition & Reception Classes) Nasal Flu Immunisation (Years 1-3) (9.00am—11.00am)
07.11.16-11.11.16	Curriculum Challenge Week—History
09.11.16	Ancient Greek Day for pupils in Years 4,5 & 6. Please come dressed in Greek costume.
11.11.16	KES Year 6 group Maths Challenge (1.00pm—3.30pm)
12.11.16	Open Morning (10.00am—1.00pm) - Workshops will be taking place for Years 3—5 pupils ( <i>Puppets and Maths Games</i> 10.15am—12.15pm)
14.11.16	Years 5 & 6 Primary Maths Challenge
25.11.16	House Public Speaking Competition—Years 1—6 (2.00pm—3.30pm) Parents Welcome
02.12.16	Travelling Book Fair Choir Visit to Holmpark (2.00pm—3.15pm)
05.12.16	Christmas Post Begins
06.12.16	Years 2—6 Theatre Trip to The Rep (Treasure Island) (9.15am—1.30pm)
09.12.16	Carol Service Rehearsal at St. Augustine's (2.00pm—3.30pm)
12.12.16	No Extra-Curricular Clubs this week. ASC runs as normal until 13.12.16 Reports issued for all pupils (Transition—Year 6)
13.12.16	Transition Christmas Assembly (9.30am—10.15am) Parents Welcome Christmas Lunch & Party Day
14.12.16	Carol Service at St. Augustine's (9.30am—10.30am) <b>School Breaks for Christmas after Carol Service</b> No After School Clubs on this date More details will follow after half-term with information about our arrangements for the Carol Service.