

Trowse Primary School

Why was the turkey in the pop band?

He was the only one with Drumsticks...!



Christmas in School

Christmas Performances Thank you so much for all your support by coming to watch the Christmas Performances. The standard of the performances was very high and I hope you could see all the hard work that went in to making them so special. We have a very talented group of pupils and it is lovely to see them have their moments to shine.

Christmas Lunch was a lovely atmosphere! Having all the children in the hall at one time and serving over 100 Christmas meals (with table service from the staff) is busy- but great fun! The children enjoyed the atmosphere with music playing and crackers to pull. My thanks go to all the staff for their time helping with service to make it such a special lunch.

Carol Service. We are very much looking forward to our Carol Service on the afternoon of Monday 18th December. Children from across the school will be reading out their thoughts on Christmas and we will of course be singing some favourites like 'The Twelve days of Christmas' and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'.

Elf Workshop – the elves will be busy again on the last day of term, Tuesday, 19th December. Enjoy your gift if you are the chosen one!

Primary School Performance Tables

You may well have seen in the press that the primary school performance data came out last week. As always, you can trust that our school performed well when compared to other Norfolk and national results. The results primarily look at the Year 6 'SATS' results from the summer of 2017. One of the big headline figures is 'pupils who achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths'. Looking at the DFE website, out of 440 Norfolk schools, we were joint 18th; that's in the top 5%!

Year on year we perform very well indeed. I cannot praise the teachers here enough; they really are first class. Furthermore, these consistent high results are down to the hard work and dedication of an excellent team of staff- all staff- that work together in the best interests of all the pupils at school. It is also down to your support for your child and the interest you show in their schooling. Listening to them read daily, supporting with their maths or spellings at home really does make a difference.

Christmas Performance Dates...

Tuesday 19th December

9:10- Celebration assembly

Elf Workshop

3:15- End of term

Thursday 4th January

8:55- Spring term starts

w/c Monday 8th January

All clubs re-start

Monday 15th January

Admissions forms 2018 deadline

Need to contact us?

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A POLITE REMINDER- DUE TO HAVING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES, WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL. IF YOU ARE PROVIDING YOUR CHILDREN WITH A PACKED LUNCH, OR FOOD FOR ANY OTHER REASON, PLEASE ENSURE IT CONTAINS NO NUT PRODUCTS OR OILS.

Clubs

As always, we try to provide a range of after school clubs for children of various ages. Below is a table detailing what is available for the Spring term. If your child attends a club, we do expect them to be committed to attending every week.

If you would like your child to attend a club, but know finances are very difficult, the school may be able to help if the club is linked to health and fitness (Dance & Pilates). If your child is in receipt of free school meals or has been in the past, please do speak to Mrs Andrews in the office if you are in a position of requiring financial assistance.

Day	Club	Provider	Who is it for?	Collection Time	Notes..
Monday	-	-	-	-	-
Tuesday	Dance Club	Miss Harcourt	Year 1-6	4:15	£2 per session, booked termly.
Wednesday	Karate	Aem-Hai Karate	Years 1-6	4.30	This is a club with a fee- external provider
Thursday	Film Club	Mr Odell	Reception – Year 6	4:15	£2 per session, booked termly.
Friday	Pilates	Miss Harcourt	Year 1-6	4:15	£2 per session, booked termly.

Punctuality

Please try to be punctual. Today alone (Monday 18th) saw a total of two hours of lost time when you add up all the time for children who were late to school. Please arrive on the playground from **8.45**, ready for the bell to go at 8.55. We expect all children to be in the line at this time.

All Important Calendar Dates !

Tuesday, 19 th December	9.10am	Celebration Assembly
		Elf Workshop all day
	3.15pm	School closes for Christmas
Wednesday 3 rd January	9:00am	Staff Training Day- no pupils
Thursday, 4 th January 2018	8.55am	Children Return to school
W/C Monday, 8 th January	ALL AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS START UP AGAIN	
Monday, 15 th January 2018	Admission forms for Sept 2018 Reception children need to be back to NCC.	
Friday 9 th February	3:15pm	Finish for half term
Monday 19 th February	8:55am	Spring second half term starts
Wednesday 28 th March	3:15	Finish for Easter Holidays

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Governor Updates...

Governor Vacancy

Would you like to be a Governor of the school? We currently have a parent vacancy and are inviting applications from parents in the New Year. Paperwork will be out to all families in due course, but in the meantime, have a think about it! We also have 'co-opted' vacancies. These are for persons who are not family members of children, or staff. Do you know anyone in the village, or through your work, who would be a great school governor? If so, chat to them about it- having a great, supportive governing body with a wide variety of strengths really does drive the school forward.

Update on Academisation

The following letter is from our Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, regarding our current position on academisation.

Over the last few months the Board of Governors has been considering the case for academisation. As well as the subject being a regular item on the agenda, we have met with two academy trusts; Sapientia Education Trust (led by Wymondham College), and The Yare Education Trust (led by Thorpe St Andrew School). We were very impressed by both and would like to thank them for their time and valuable input.

On Wednesday 6 December, we held a special meeting at which we decided not to pursue academisation at the moment. This was not an easy decision, but was based on the following considerations:

- 1. Any school will need to balance the pros and cons of academisation. As Trowse Primary is already an 'outstanding' school and demonstrating excellent performance across the board, the potential benefits appear more marginal;*
- 2. There is no obvious compelling reason to make academisation an urgent priority, not least because only 25% of schools in Norfolk have academised and although this is increasing each month, the rate of increase is slow. Rather than feeling we might miss the boat, we feel that there is no rush and that the picture might become clearer over the next couple of years with further useful evidence becoming available;*
- 3. Most importantly, the new primary school in Trowse is scheduled to be open in September 2019. A successful and smooth transition will require a considerable amount of energy and time from staff, and especially Mr Odell. The Board is inclined to think that this should remain the priority over the next two years, and that any further consideration of academisation will only serve to detract from it.*

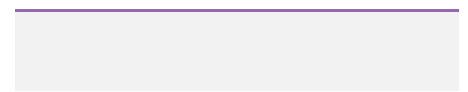
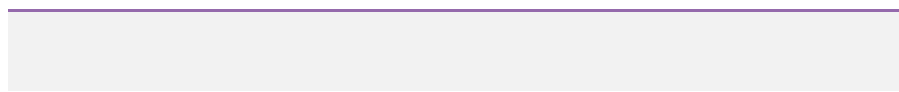
Whilst deciding not to pursue academisation at the moment, we also decided to review this in two years' time once the new school is up and running. Of course, if anything of importance should come to light in the meantime, we can always return to the matter. But for now at least, we can put it to one side.

Mark Thompson, Vice-Chair

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing all of you on January 4th!

Stuart Odell

Headteacher.



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