Surlingham Primary School

Newsletter 13.11.26

Our Play Leaders have made a fantastic start to the year, organising games and activities on the playground and helping to make playtime fun and enjoyable for everyone. A huge well done to all those involved! Our swimming gala was also a great success, with so many children pushing themselves, showing great resilience and believing in their own abilities. It was wonderful to see them step outside their comfort zones and compete against other schools – a fantastic achievement for everyone who took part! Finally, this week was National Switch Off Week, so I hope the children have been remembering to do their bit to save energy by switching off lights when they aren't needed. Every little action makes a difference!

Meet Our New Play Leaders!



Last week, a group of our Willow Class pupils attended Play Leader training at the University of East Anglia (UEA), where they spent the day developing their leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

Through a range of exciting workshops, the children explored what makes a great leader, learnt new playground games and discovered how to make activities safe, fun and inclusive for everyone. We were particularly proud of how confidently they worked alongside children from other schools, sharing ideas and demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the day.

Our newly trained Play Leaders have now received their badges and are excited to put their new skills into practice at playtimes and lunchtimes, helping to ensure that everyone has a happy and active break time.

Well done to all our Play Leaders. We are looking forward to seeing the positive difference they make on our playground!

ATTENDANCE

Our school target for attendance this year is 97%. This week our attendance was 95.6%

Swimming Success for Hawthorns



The children in Hawthorns were delighted to receive their swimming certificates this week and should be incredibly proud of their achievements. It has been wonderful to see the progress they have made throughout the year, with many developing greater confidence and skill in the water.

We are continually praised by the swimming coach at Riverside, who regularly comments on the children's confidence, positive attitude and willingness to challenge themselves. He also recognises how important these sessions are in helping children develop essential water safety skills that could one day save lives. Well done, Hawthorns!

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Every child matters. Every family makes a difference.

OUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Surlingham Primary School, we are proud of the education, care and opportunities we provide. However, we need to be open about one area where we must improve: **attendance**. During our Ofsted inspection last academic year, attendance was highlighted as a factor holding back recognition of the school's strongest work. More importantly, when children miss school, they miss learning, friendships and experiences that cannot always be recreated.

THE PICTURE AT SURLINGHAM

Our attendance fell from **96.1% in 2024/25 to 95.1% in 2025/26**. Before the pandemic it was **97.1%**. We know our school can do better, and we need everyone's help to turn this around. These figures are from the Department for Education's 2025/26 attendance comparison report.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

We are seeing too many children miss lessons for family holidays during term time. We understand that holidays are important to families, but **holidays should be booked during school breaks**. Term-time leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice in line with national rules. Please speak to us before making plans.

IS MY CHILD WELL ENOUGH FOR SCHOOL?

Please keep your child at home if they have a high temperature and feel unwell, or if they have vomiting or diarrhoea (they should remain off school until **48 hours after the last episode**). Some infectious illnesses have specific exclusion rules.

Please usually send your child in with a mild cold, runny nose, slight cough or minor tiredness, provided they have no high temperature and are well enough to take part in the school day. A sibling who is well should attend even if their brother or sister is ill. If your child becomes too unwell to stay, **we will contact you**.

WE WILL WORK WITH YOU

We recognise that some children face genuine health, anxiety, disability or family-related barriers to attendance. Please talk to us early so that we can understand what is happening and agree the right support. Our aim is not to penalise genuine illness: it is to make sure that every child attends whenever they reasonably can.

Our shared goal: children in school, learning and thriving — every possible day.

Dates for the Diary

We have identified events in **GREEN** that parents/carers are invited to.
Events in **RED** have been recently added.

Autumn Term 2026

November

- **Wednesday 18 November –** Cross Country qualifier (selected KS2)

December

- **w/c 7 December –** Parents' Evenings
- **Thursday 10 December –** Maths Café
- **Friday 11 December –** Hippodrome Trip
- **Monday 14 December –** Evening Nativity
- **Tuesday 15 December –** Christmas Craft Morning
- **Tuesday 15 December –** Nativity (pm)
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Santa Dash
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Christmas Lunch
- **Thursday 17 December –** Carol Service (pm)
- **Friday 18 December** Appointments available with our Early Help Community Worker – please contact the school if you would like a 30 minute appointment in the morning
- **Friday 18 December –** End of Autumn Term / Children finish for Christmas

Spring Term 2027

January

- **Tuesday 5 January –** Children return to school
- **w/c 18 January –** SEN Parent Meetings
- **Monday 18 January –** Crucial Crew Trip (Year 6)

February

- **Week commencing 1 February –** Children's Mental Health Week
- **Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February –** Half Term
- **Monday 22 February –** Children return to school after half term

March

- **Thursday 4 March –** Reading Café for World Book Day
- **Thursday 4 March –** Twilight Meeting
- **w/c 15 March –** Parents' Evenings
- **Thursday 18 March –** Parent Forum
- **Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 March –** Residential
- **Friday 26 March –** End of Spring Term

Summer Term 2027

April

- **Monday 12 April –** Children return to school
- **w/c 26 April –** SEN Parent Meetings

June

Monday 28th June – Sports Day

July

- **Thursday 1 July –** Parent Forum
- **Week commencing 12 July –** Reports sent home
- **Monday 19 July –** Year 6 Pleasurewood Hills Trip
- **Wednesday 21 July –** Leaving Service
- **Thursday 22 July –** Parent Forum
- **Friday 23 July –** End of Summer Term

Friends of Surlingham School

Events Calendar 2026-27

September

Teddy Bears Picnic

Sunday 20th

FREE



October

Quiz and Chips

Saturday 17th 6.30pm

Surlingham Village Hall



November

Movie Night

Saturday 28th

Surlingham Village Hall



December

Christmas Carols

Saturday 12th



January



February

Jumble Sale

Saturday 20th

Surlingham Village Hall

2pm-4pm



March

Easter cafe

Thursday 25th

Surlingham Village Hall

3.15pm-4.15pm



April

Spring sculpture Trail

Over the 2 week Easter break



May

Colour run sponsorship forms being sent out



June

Summer fete

Saturday 5th



July



August

Fantasy Football



CRUSADERS RUGBY CLUB

LITTLE MELTON RD, NORWICH NR9 3NP

CALLING ALL GIRLS IN YEAR 6 AND YEAR 7



New and Experienced players welcome

Build confidence and be part of a growing team

Learn new skills

Make new friends





Training: Wednesdays 6.30pm

Sundays: Training and Matches

For more information contact our team manager

Chrystal - chrystallong501@gmail.com

family hubs

Hello, my name is Dovile, I am the Early Help Community Worker with Family Hubs covering Hethersett, Hobart and Framingham areas. I offer advice, guidance, and support on a range of family-related worries, including parenting, finances, work, and activities and many more. Our conversations are relaxed and supportive, and any help is always based on your consent, you decide what support feels right for you. Please speak to your school if you would like an appointment with me at a Family Hub drop-in in your school on FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER, online or at our family hub in Long Stratton.

BEST START IN LIFE