



End of year Newsletter



Monday 20th July 2020

Term Dates:

Monday 7th September 2020: Start of autumn term
Thursday 22nd October 2020: First day of half term
Monday 2nd November 2020: Start of second half of autumn term
Friday 18th December 2020: Last day of autumn term
Monday 4th January 2021: First day of spring term

A message from Mrs Brand:

As we are about to enter into the summer break, please can I say a big thank you to all of you for your support. These past 18 weeks have been like no other I have known in a school year. I have been so impressed by the activities children have completed during this time, I know staff have really valued being in regular communication with you.

I must also thank our staff and governors for everything they have given to our school during this difficult time.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all children in September. All of our planning will follow the up to guidance from the Department for Education and I will be working over the holiday to keep track of any further updates from government. Attached please find a simple summary of some of the ways things will be slightly different based on the latest guidance.

Please have a look on our website for simple details you can share with your child about their class in September.

Emergency Contact:

If you need to make contact with school during the holiday please email, phone or text Mrs Brand:
head@ditchingham.norfolk.sch.uk or
07376299193

Again thank you to you and your children for making this such a great community to work within. Please enjoy a restful summer holiday.

A message from DNEAT:

https://mcusercontent.com/733847be4de4341e8ea108cd3/files/3392cb5b-834d-46c8-a618-312c90339bbb/17.07.2020_Message_from_DNEAT_CEO_Staff_Governors_Trustees_Parents_Carers.pdf

Good luck to our Year 6:

We would like to wish all of our Y6s much love and luck as they move on to their High Schools. Many thanks to our Friends for providing these leavers gifts.



Uniform Swap Shop:

We are going to continue to hold our uniform swap shop for a few Monday mornings in the new term. Please remember to bring in any unwanted uniform in a bag and swap for something you do need. Thank you.

Holiday Childcare:

Please have a look at these two links for childcare play schemes through summer. Thank you.

<https://communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk/Search?keywords=holiday+playschemes&udg=True&distance=&Lat=&Lon=&location=>

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/results.page?qt=holiday+clubs&term=nr350ht&infolinkchannel=1&sorttype=distance>

Summer learning activities:

<http://www.ditchingham.norfolk.sch.uk/2020/07/summer-learning-activities/>

Summer Reading Challenge and activities from the Education Library Service:

- If you would like to encourage children to sign up and haven't already, you can use our virtual assembly from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_kyeFhHV8o&t=9s
- If any parents have difficulty signing up, then we've got a help video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VJSEI4wpe8>

You can also find book recommendations and "first chapters" of different books on our YouTube channel to try to encourage children to try out some different things!

We're delighted to be working with 2 storytellers this summer, John Kirk and Andy Copps will be bringing the works of Roald Dahl to life via Zoom! On August 5th John will be performing the Twits. On August 12th Andy will be performing Billy and the Minpins. On August 19th John will be performing The Enormous Crocodile. All places are free, and can be booked by contacting Helena.last@norfolk.gov.uk

- You will have seen in the media that we're at the early stages of opening the doors to some of our branches; you can find out the most up to date information on our website and social media pages.
- Our new Facebook page, Norfolk Libraries for Families (www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesForFamilies) has details of all of our events, and you can still find info at www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Job vacancies:

Midday Supervisory Assistant Vacancy X 2 at Ditchingham Primary:

<http://www.kingfisherpartnership.co.uk/staff/vacancies/>

Catering Service Assistant at Gillingham Primary:

<http://www.gillingham.norfolk.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Basic Practicalities for September:

Below is a basic guide to some of the key practical considerations for September. It is based on Government guidance that we have received.

Area	Key Points to Note
Uniform and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform can be worn in September and does not need to be cleaned any more regularly than normal. Please ensure it is labelled clearly with your child's name. • Children should only bring in essential items each day. This includes bags, coats, lunch boxes and water bottle. • PE Kit – children will be invited to come into school wearing their PE kit all day on PE days.
Times of day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The times of the day will be as normal.
Drop-off and pick-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes will have their own entry and exit points. • There will be set waiting/drop off areas for each class – these will be well signed but we will also share a map of these locations before September • Please try to ensure social distancing on site and do not congregate on the site or at the gates
Behaviour & conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Covid-19 behaviour policy that has been implemented since June will still be in place in September with some adjustments to reflect the fact that the whole school is returning. It is the expectation that all children adhere to this and it will be shared with them in the first week back.
Lunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a full menu of lunch options from our new catering company, Aspens. • Lunches will be staggered but this is something that will happen within the school day.
Playtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have breaks but again these will be staggered so that groups can maintain their distance
Collective worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will currently be no collective worship as a whole school. However, this will take place in each class daily. There will be no Friday family sharing assemblies.

Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It will not be possible to pop for a quick word with the teacher in September. Meetings can be arranged, but will normally have to be conducted by phone.
Breakfast and After School Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will be no provision for the first few weeks of term. We will send communication when we are able to open this provision. It will operate on a strictly pre-booked only basis. ● There will be no after school clubs.

Information from our catering suppliers:



Dear Parents/Carers

We want to take this opportunity to give you some really important information about your school meal service from September and reassure you that we have everything covered so we can continue to feed children around the country safely.

At Aspens, many of our team are parents themselves and have faced similar challenges over the past four months - homeschooling, keeping young minds positive and feeding them 24/7 to name a few. We want to take this opportunity to reassure you that our food provision continues to be healthy, nutritious but above all else, safe in the unprecedented environment we have found ourselves in.

From September, schools will kick start their minds, their mental health will improve when they are reunited with their friends and we want to make sure that we also contribute to their wellbeing by giving them nutritious food, safely, from day one.

We appreciate how many changes schools are having to make to keep children and staff safe and we are working with them to offer the best food solution according to their individual requirements. We also need to make sure it's still an enjoyable experience for all.

Here's a summary of what we are doing behind the scenes to give you reassurance as you head into the summer break:

- All changes made will be in conjunction with up to date government led guidance and advice, especially around social distancing, food safety and enhanced cleaning regimes. This includes agreeing with your school changes to timings and locations if required.
- Food suppliers are able to support changes needed in delivery schedules to ensure that there is limited crossover and a 'no contact' process. For example, no entrance to the kitchens will be allowed and delivery boxes are to be unpacked and wiped before storage.
- Our due diligence procedures, including food hygiene and safety have new, enhanced recording procedures ready for September. Each meal service is then certified as being compliant by our Head of QHSE.
- Our teams are carrying out specific return to work and COVID-19 training and will be certified "fit to work" before returning.
- We are also reviewing payment methods and ordering processes to ensure we are providing the safest method possible.
- Our lunches provide a nutritious range of food that differs every day and will get their taste buds buzzing again. This will take the pressure away from parents/carers, having to provide that balance and variety with a lunch from home.

We also understand that there may be some families that have had a change in financial circumstances and may now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals. Please look into this. This website helps you to establish if you can claim.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

We are experts in feeding school aged children and are really looking forward to providing your child with their school meal when we return in September. We also look forward to welcoming all the new starters to school.

I hope this letter has helped to make your decision about school food easier and we will provide more detailed information about the return to school food closer to September.

Aspens Services