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Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back! We were delighted to welcome all the children back to school last Thursday after the summer break and were also very pleased to welcome Miss Horlick, Miss Laniado and Miss Fry to our teaching team. We look forward to getting to know those of you who are new parents to the school in the coming days and weeks.

I am sure that everyone would agree that the Olympic and Paralympic Games were a real highlight of the summer. Both the Olympic and Paralympic athletes were, and continue to be, such an inspiration to us all, showing how graft, perseverance and team-work leads to fantastic things being achieved. We are doing our best to carry on this inspiration into our work with the children over the coming months. In turn, we know that the children will respond to the challenges and work hard to make sure they have a successful year.

As reported last term, we were delighted that the Year 6 children achieved such excellent SAT results last year. 93% achieved Level 4 or better in English (42% L5). In mathematics 95% achieved Level 4 or better (47% at L5). These results are well above national averages and are a real credit to the children and their teachers. We also congratulate all the Hellesdon High School students who achieved a great set of results at GCSE this year which were also above national and local averages.

We look forward to many more successes over the coming months.

### YEAR 3 NEWS

We are really pleased to welcome all our new year 3s to Firsides. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Horlick into the teaching team. We have had several meetings with the infant school teachers and look forward to building on the skills they have developed there.

Thank you to all of those of you who embraced our summer reading challenge! We are just waiting for the last few records to be handed back and before presenting the children with their certificates.

In Literacy we will be studying a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and will encourage the children to recognise the similarities and differences between them. We will be using Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, (often abbreviated to VCOP) as key ideas to help the children improve their writing.

You can make a real difference to your child's progress by reading regularly with them at home - 4 or 5 times a week would be ideal. If you could briefly record what they do in the reading record section of the home school book we would be grateful. We will give the children a team point if they read on 4 or more occasions each week, if it has been recorded by you. Times-table practice is also important and we will let the children know which tables they need to work on. We would also encourage the children to make regular use of Mathletics and Reading Eggs at home. Both can be done independently or supported by an adult. Recommendations are to perhaps do two 20 minute sessions on each per week.

We would appreciate any help from parents and carers who can come into school to help with individual reading practice. Please talk to your child's teacher if you would like to help with this.

In ICT, we will introduce the children to email, and they will have their own gmail account. We feel confident that use of the internet and email will support their learning and will discuss e-safety issues as part of our programme of study. We recognise that computer and internet access is not always available at home and we will run a lunchtime club to allow access. During this club children will also be able to keep up with Reading Eggs and Mathletics.

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Some practical advice to help you and your child:

- For the first week, your child's teacher will bring your child, with his or her class, out to the playground at the end of the day. As the term progresses the children will start to come out independently at the end of the day. Please make sure that you and your child are aware of your arrangements for collection. If a child is waiting more than 10 minutes, they will be taken to wait outside the secretary's office in the foyer.
- We have a fruit break every morning and encourage children to bring in a piece of fruit or a healthy snack. This should be brought into class rather than kept in their lunchbox. We also allow and encourage water bottles with lids that children can drink out of in class; water only please.
- Children may buy tuck from the canteen at break time and should bring no more than £1 in a named purse. This should be handed to their teacher for safe-keeping at the beginning of the day and taken home at the end of each day.
- We encourage children to be prepared with a pencil, rubber and sharpener in a small pencil case (not too full or fiddly please!). Pencils are available for children to buy from the school office.

Please make sure ALL clothing that comes into school is clearly named. It saves a great deal of learning time.

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## Diary Dates

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<b>September</b>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	5F Holt Hall visit
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	School Photographer (Individual & Siblings) Y 5 Open Parent meeting (15:30 – 16:00)
	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	5T Holt Hall visit
	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Y 3 Parents to Lunch
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	5C Holt Hall visit
<b>October</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Y 3 Open Parent meeting (15:30-16:00)
	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Coffee & Chat Session (Dining Hall) Y 4 Parents to Lunch
	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Firsides AGM (15:30-16:00)
	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Y 5 & Y6 Parents to Lunch
	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Y 6 Gressenhall visit
	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Half term week
<b>November</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens
<b>December</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts
	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term

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Start of School – Please note that children should not arrive on site until 8:30 each day as we cannot supervise them before this time.

Absences – If your child is unable to attend school please ensure you ring in before 9:30 on the first day of absence giving a reason and if they are still absent after two days please ring to update us.

Emergency Contact Details – Please make sure you keep the office informed of changes to contact numbers and addresses promptly.

Parentmail – If you are able to receive emails and have not signed up to 'Parentmail' please collect a form from the office.

School Dinners – Please remember to order & pay for your child's lunches on a Monday for the week ahead - envelopes from the office.

Uniform – Please note that all uniform must be ordered and paid for in advance using the forms available from the office or the website.

Food Hygiene rating - Congratulations to Debbie and all the kitchen staff who have just had been awarded a "Good" food hygiene rating (4 out of a possible 5).

## Term Dates 2012-13

<b>Autumn term</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> September to 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Half term holiday: 29 <sup>th</sup> October to 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012
<b>Spring term</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> January to 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Half term holiday: 18 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2013
<b>Summer term</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April to 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	Half term holiday: 27 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2013 May Day: Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 Norfolk CPD day: Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2013