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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 5 NEWS

Cheery smiles and enthusiastic pupils made the new school year get off to a great start. I was particularly impressed with their readiness for learning, with most pupils having pens and pencils ready. The teaching team has expanded to three, with the welcome addition of Miss Fry, and we are looking forward to combining the skills of all three teachers to craft an interesting and enjoyable curriculum for the year.

Our curriculum gets off to a great start straight away with our trip to Holt Hall Study Centre and a study in North Norfolk of the River Glaven. This will provide the basis for our teaching about rivers and will provide a great example to refer to as we work through linked topics such as habitats, river energy flow, water cycle, settlement and natural features. As you will be aware Year 5 also plan a residential trip to Holt Hall in June, so this early experience acts as a bit of a taster too.

Literacy is focusing on the work of Michael Morpurgo during the first four weeks, looking at a range of his novels before writing in his style ourselves. Later we will be moving onto the stories from other cultures. Aborigine culture and traditional stories will be part of this study, as it works well with our teaching for Black History Month. We are particularly looking forward to the art work which we hope to generate from this project.

Later in the term we will focus on science. We will be learning about ourselves and how the body functions. We are keen to link this to P.E. and ICT when we look at links between health, exercise and fitness. Towards the end of the term we will be preparing for a school performance of winter poems and Christmas songs.

We have an after school tea party on Thursday 20th. September at 3:30pm, to meet parents, introduce ourselves and discuss the coming year.

Last year all the children had the opportunity to bake bread rolls. With your help, we would like to organise this again. If you could spare an afternoon a week on a regular basis we would love to hear from you. Please make a note in your child's journal or contact the school office, I will get back to you.

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A final note: all pupils have a Learning Journal, which can be used to record important diary events and learning experience. Most importantly it is where home reading must be recorded. We expect four 10 minute sessions each week (which will earn a team point!). Homework will be set on a Friday. We will be using Mathletics and Reading Eggs online resources regularly. If your child has difficulty accessing the internet we will be providing time in school to do these tasks – a lunch time club. Although most homework deadlines are on a Wednesday, when setting ‘talking tasks’ for extended writing, notes and/or word banks will need to be bought into school for Monday’s writing task.

If you wish to speak to a teacher during the year please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Diary Dates

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

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

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